Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-122
Monday
25 June 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-122 25 June 1990

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Working Team Meets, Discusses Summit Resolutions *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Gulf Paper Cites Israeli Plans for Libya, Iraq *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I 21 Jun]* 1
Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt To Oversee Borders *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 21 Jun]* 1
Iraq Reportedly Would Defend Jordan *[Dubayy AL-BAYAN 23 Jun]* 1
Iraqi Envoy Quashes Reports on Syria Overtures *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 21 Jun]* 2
Tripartite Committee Issues Statement on Lebanon *[SPA]* 2
International Fund for Lebanon Aid Set Up *[SPA]* 2
Maghreb Union Regrets U.S. Breach With PLO *[Rabat RTM TV]* 3
Gulf Press Attacks U.S. Mideast Policy *[WAKH]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah's Khalaf Says Peace Initiative 'Frozen' 3
Reported by AL-ANBA' *[WAKH]* 3
Calls for Forming Arab Axis *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 23 Jun]* 4
DFLP's Ra'fat Concurs *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 23 Jun]* 4
PLO Denies Reported Peace Initiative Freeze 6
Ambassador in Baghdad Comments *[MENA]* 6
Khalaf Denies Media Reports *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 25 Jun]* 6
PLO Seeks Unified Arab Stance on U.S. Dialogue 7
'Arafat Meets With Klibi *[WAKH]* 7
Calls Foreign Ministers Meeting *[AFP]* 7
Meets Arab Envoys *[INA]* 8
Discussion Continues on U.S. Dialogue Suspension 8
PFLP Issues Statement *[APS]* 8
Khalaf Denies Inquiry Underway *[Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 22 Jun]* 8
West Bank Figures Cited *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Jun]* 8
Paper Views Effects on Peace *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Jun]* 9
Restoral Called Inevitable *[Baghdad VOP]* 9
Radio Comments *[Algiers VOP]* 10
Abu-Sharif Conducts News Conference 24 Jun *[MENA]* 11
U.S. Mideast Policy Called Contradictory *[Baghdad VOP]* 12
'Abbas To Continue Armed Struggle to 'Martyrdom' *[AFP]* 13
'Abbas Reports to 'Arafat on 30 May Operation 13
Turns Over Raid File *[KUNA]* 13
MENA Details Report 13
Al-Tamimi Urges 'Arafat To Join Armed Struggle *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 21 Jun]* 13
'Arafat Cables Condolences to Iran, Offers Aid *[Baghdad VOP]* 14
Tunisia Deports Former Abu-Nidal Associate *[MENA]* 14

OPEC Affairs

Algeria's Boussena Arrives in Abu Dhabi *[KUNA]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Assails U.S. Decision on PLO *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Premier Views Outcome of Elections *[Algiers TV]* 16
Berriane Tense After Post-Electoral Clashes *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives for Nonaligned Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 16

Egypt

PLO Representative on Recent U.S. Statements *[MENA]* 16
AL-AHRAM 'Denounces' U.S. Stand On Libya *[MENA]* 17
Commentaries Urge U.S. To Reconsider Dialogue 17
Cairo Radio 23 Jun 17
Cairo Radio 22 Jun 18
Mubarak Responds to Iranian Earthquake 18
Cable of Condolence *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Relief Shipments *[MENA]* 19
Al-Asad Telephones Mubarak 23 Jun *[MENA]* 19
Guinean Foreign Minister Arrives 24 Jun *[Cairo Radio]* 19

Libya

Forces on 'Extreme Alert' for Israeli Strike *[Algiers VOP]* 19
'Plot Was Fully Unveiled' *[JANA]* 19
Al-Qadhdhafi Makes Statement to JANA on Liberia *[Tripoli Radio]* 19
JANA Asks U.S. Stand on Israeli Chemical Leak 19
Chadian Charge Summoned Over Seized Trucks *[JANA]* 20
Ugandan President Arrives on Visit 21 Jun *[JANA]* 20
Meets Al-Qadhdhafi *[Tripoli TV]* 20
Departs 22 Jun *[Tripoli International]* 20
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Al-Bashir Message *[Tripoli Radio]* 20
Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Condolences to Iran Over Quake *[JANA]* 21
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Turkish State Minister Celebi *[Ankara TV]* 21
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Pan-African Congress Leader *[JANA]* 21
Romanian Delegation Concludes Visit 20 Jun *[JANA]* 21
Maghreb Union Engineers Conclude Tripoli Meeting *[JANA]* 21
Maltese Deputy Premier Lauds Friendly Relations *[JANA]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Government Official on Dialogue Suspension *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Jun]* 22
New Cabinet Members Received by Amir, Sworn In *[Kuwait Radio]* 22
Paper Urges 'Serious' Stand Against U.S. *[KUNA]* 22

Saudi Arabia

'Great Concern' Expressed for Dialogue Suspension *[SPA]* 22
ICO Regrets U.S. Decision *[SPA]* 22
King Fahd Sends Condolences to Rafsanjani *[SPA]* 23
Quake Aid Offered *[SPA]* 23
Interior Minister on Pilgrimage, Aid to Iran *[Riyadh Radio]* 23

Yemen Arab Republic

Moscow Paper Interviews Ambassador to USSR
[Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 19 Jun] 24

IRAQ

Islamic Conference Issues Final Statement *[INA]* 25
Ministry Source Denies Amnesty Report on Kurds *[INA]* 27
Jordan's Husayn Meets With Saddam, Departs *[Baghdad Radio]* 27

ISRAEL

Lebanese Coast 'Sabotage Attempt' Foiled 24 Jun 28
Air, Sea, Land Units Involved *[Jerusalem International]* 28
Two 'Terrorists' Killed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Curfew Imposed After 'Hundreds' Riot in Silwan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Four Injured by Bomb on 'En Gedi Beach *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Report of Plan To Attack Libya Denied *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Arens Outlines New Policy, Enacts Portions 29
Approves Security Measures *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Plan for Settlers' Security *[HA'ARETZ 21 Jun]* 29
Discusses Return of POW's *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Reportage on Shamir's Upcoming Response to Baker 30
To Sidestep Question *[Jerusalem TV]* 30
Further Details on Letter *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Jerusalem TV Reports 30
Commentary Says U.S. Must Explain Objectives *[MA'ARIV 22 Jun]* 30
West Bank, Gaza Notables on Dialogue Suspension *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
Soviet Immigrants Not To Settle in Territories 32
Shamir Letter to Gorbachev *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Green Line Settlement Boundary *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 32
Dinitz Provides Data *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Peretz Reports Hungary Contacts *[DAVAR 22 Jun]* 32
UN Envoy Aime Arrives for Tour of Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Arens Calls for Arab Involvement in Peace Process *[Jerusalem TV]* 33
Levi Rejects Offer To Meet 'Central PLO Figure' *[AL HAMISHMAR 25 Jun]* 34
Shamir Searching for 'Moderate' Palestinians *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 34
Peres Prepared To Leave Labor Leadership *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Officials Meet With Jordanians on Hajj Returnees *[Jerusalem International]* 35

JORDAN

Government Responds to Iranian Earthquake 36
Condolence Cable *[Amman Radio]* 36
Medical Supplies *[PETRA-JNA]* 36
AL-RA'Y Claims U.S. Policy Seeks Hegemony *[Amman AL-RA'Y 23 Jun]* 36

LEBANON

Palestinians, Israelis Clash Off Tyre Coast 37
Damage Cited *[VOM]* 37
'Dawn Forces' Claim Attack *[Voice of the People]* 37
'Awn Proposes 'Objective' Revision of Al-Ta'if *[The Lebanese Radio]* 37
Cited by France's Scheer *[VOL]* 37
Al-Hirawi on Amendment Attempts *[WAKH]* 37
Junblatt Cables Condolences to Iranian Leader *[VOM]* 38
Hizballah Members To Donate Tithe to Iranians *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Hizballah Radio Welcomes Dialogue Suspension *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Al-Huss Calls for Changes in Government *[Beirut Radio]* 39

SYRIA

TISHRIN Dismisses Shamir Negotiation Call *[SANA]* 40
Terms Jordan Call 'Deceptive' *[SANA]* 40
Minister Salman Receives Soviet Press Delegation *[Damascus TV]* 40

U.S. Said Helping To Establish Greater Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Al-Shar' Departs for Tehran To Express Sympathy 41
Government To Extend Aid *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Medical Aid Arrives in Iran *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Al-Asad Phones Mubarak on Bilateral Issues *[Damascus Radio]* 41

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

Domestic, International Relief Efforts Continue 42
'Any Foreign Assistance' Welcome *[Tehran TV]* 42
Besharati on Foreign Assistance *[Tehran Radio]* 42
JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI on U.S. Aid *[IRNA]* 42
Foreign Aid Detailed *[IRNA]* 43
Relief Operations Described *[IRNA]* 43
Damage in Zanjan Reported *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Damage in Gilan Province *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Needs Specified *[IRNA]* 45
President Arrives in Area *[IRNA]* 46
Interior Minister To Head Efforts *[Tehran TV]* 46
Representatives in Gilan, Zanjan *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Deaths, Injuries at 72,586 *[Tehran Radio]* 46
48,000 Killed, 100,000 Wounded *[Tehran International]* 46
Rasht Hit by Aftershocks *[IRNA]* 46
Farsan Hit by Earthquake *[IRNA]* 47
Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Sermons 22 Jun *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Further on Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Editorial on Outcome of Algerian Elections *[TEHRAN TIMES 16 Jun]* 48
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Unity in Afghan Party *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Pakistan Urged To Take Action in Leader's Death *[TEHRAN TIMES 13 Jun]* 49
Editorial Says British Delegation 'Not Welcome' *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 14 Jun]* 50
Editorial Stresses Need for Unity in Lebanon *[TEHRAN TIMES 10 Jun]* 50
Paper Lauds Arrest of 'Fifth Column' Elements *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 16 Jun]* 51
Paper on Turkey's Secularism, Islamic Revival *[ABRAR 11 Jun]* 51
*Leaders Express Views on Majles' 10th Anniversary *[RESALAT 29 May]* 52
*Editorial Comments on Majles Anniversary *[ABRAR 28 May]* 55

Sri Lanka

President Says Dialogue Opportunity Remains *[Colombo International]* 56
Fighting Continues in Northern, Eastern Areas 56
Press Release on Situation *[LANKAPUVATH]* 56
Minister Briefs Diplomats *[LANKAPUVATH]* 57
Defense Ministry on Situation *[Colombo International]* 57
62 Muslims Killed *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Paper Reviews Situation in Eastern Province *[DAILY NEWS 13 Jun]* 58

Inter-Arab Affairs

Working Team Meets, Discusses Summit Resolutions

JN2306134090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] A joint working team held a meeting in Baghdad last night. The team is composed of an Arab League secretariat delegation led by Chedli Klibi and a Palestinian delegation led by Faruq Qaddumi. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister participated in the meeting.

The working team was organized by a recent Baghdad summit resolution. It is tasked with following up on the implementation of resolutions related to threats against pan-Arab security, especially after Israeli threats and the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

The Palestinian delegation presented a number of proposals that will help implement the recent Arab summit resolutions. A number of measures were agreed upon. An informed source told me that the meeting witnessed discussion on clearing the Arab atmosphere and building the momentum toward the cherished goals. An emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting is expected in Tunis within the next few days to effect a collective response to the U.S. position. The meeting will most likely be held next Wednesday at the invitation of the state of Palestine. The Palestinian request will hinge on Article 6 of the Arab League Charter—an article dealing with threats, and it does not require a quorum. Article 6 is the only Arab League Charter that deals with collective Arab security. This means that the Arab response will carry a possible call for convening the Collective Arab Defense Pact. Other Arab ministerial meetings could also be held in addition to the foreign ministers meeting.

Gulf Paper Cites Israeli Plans for Libya, Iraq

JN2306115690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 21 Jun 90 pp 1, 23

['Atif 'Awdah in Rabat]

[Excerpt] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau held wide-ranging international contacts yesterday after receiving information that the Israeli entity intended to stage a lightning strike on Libyan military bases.

An official Arab source said the Shamir government endorsed a broad plan of aggression which includes an attack on the Jamal 'Abd- al-Nasir base in Libya and on Iraqi military factories. The source asserted that these aggressive actions are part of a Zionist military plan to invade the Jordan Valley and southern Lebanon in order to impose a new political status quo and in preparation for crushing the intifadah.

The source added that Libyan reconnaissance facilities yesterday monitored unusual movement by Israeli aircraft over the Mediterranean.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Cairo informed Washington of this and of the gravity of the situation in the Mediterranean area. It also addressed the second warning in a month to Israel about the consequences of an aggression against Arab states. The Egyptian paper AL-AHALI cited Egyptian sources in Cairo as saying that Egypt requested Washington's intervention in regard to the massing of large Israeli forces on the Egyptian border. The paper said Egypt considered the new Israeli move the harbinger of a military explosion in the region, in addition to being an explicit violation of the Camp David accords. The paper added that the Egyptian Armed Forces conducted several tactical exercises to practice their capabilities in the wake of the new developments.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Palestinian leadership set up an emergency committee to deal with the situation militarily and politically. [passage omitted]

Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt To Oversee Borders

JN2306153690 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Jun 90 p 22

[Text] Cairo—Nabih al-Nimr, Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, has told AL-WATAN that his country, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt are coordinating efforts to maintain the international borders in the Gulf of Aqaba. The shooting by an Israeli patrol at a royal yacht while King Husayn was on board has highlighted a precarious situation in the Gulf of Aqaba, al-Nimr said.

To the best of the Jordanian ambassador's knowledge, there is no Israeli military buildup on the borders with Jordan.

Iraq Reportedly Would Defend Jordan

JN2406150590 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 23 Jun 90 p 14

[Text] Baghdad—AL-BAYAN has learned that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who met with King Husayn of Jordan in Baghdad the day before yesterday, affirmed that the Iraqi Army will not sit back with folded arms if Jordan becomes the target of an Israeli attack.

Iraqi military sources informed AL-BAYAN that President Saddam told King Husayn that Iraqi troops are fully prepared to launch an all-out and devastating war against Israel if the latter carries out an act of aggression.

While paying an unexpected and brief visit to Baghdad, King Husayn gave the Iraqi president details of Israeli troop concentrations along the Wadi al-'Arabah [Ha'arava] border with Jordan. The king also briefed

President Saddam on Jordan's preparations for confronting a possible aggression against its territory. He acquainted the Iraqi president with Jordan's capabilities in this area with a view to coordinating with Iraq against Israeli threats.

Iraqi Envoy Quashes Reports on Syria Overtures

JN2306153090 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 21 Jun 90 p 22

[Text] Nabil Najm, Iraq's ambassador in Cairo, has discounted reports of Arab mediation efforts to iron out differences between his country and Syria. In a statement to AL-WATAN, he called these reports groundless.

Tripartite Committee Issues Statement on Lebanon

LD2306014290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2343 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Baule, France, 22 Jun (SPA)—The foreign ministers of the member-countries of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee in charge of resolving the Lebanese crisis, namely His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Excellency Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation; and Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Algeria's foreign minister; issued the following statement at the end of their meeting today—Friday—in Baule in the west of France:

In continuation of its endeavors for Lebanon, and in light of the resolution issued regarding the Lebanese crisis by the emergency arab summit held in Baghdad 406 Dhi al-Qa'dah 1410 Hijra, corresponding to 28-30 May 1990, the Ministerial Committee belonging to the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee held a meeting on 22 June 1990 to examine the moves and contacts which should be made at the Arab and international levels to implement this resolution and to contribute to the achievement of the Arab peace plan which is based on the national concord document which the Lebanese had agreed upon in al-Ta'if.

Within this framework, the Ministerial Committee held talks with Pope John Paul II, and also with Cardinal Casaroli on 21 June 1990.

These talks were devoted to the steps to be taken to put a final end to the terrible and tragic situation suffered by the Lebanese people by enabling the Lebanese state to spread its control over all the Lebanese territory, to enable all to contribute to the peace process, and to reconstruct a just, capable, and stable state.

The committee expressed its appreciation for the endeavors exerted by the Vatican to put an end to mutual killing and bloodshed in Lebanon. It also expressed its striving for cooperation between the Committee and the Vatican to ensure that all the Lebanese people rallying under the banner of legitimacy and to enable Lebanon to end its suffering and to reach peace, concord, unity, and independence.

The committee indicated that the Lebanese issue will be one of the fundamental issues on the agenda of the Arab Summit Conference which will be held in Cairo next November. The committee will submit a detailed report on its work, contacts, and on the general situation in Lebanon.

The committee informed the Pope about its intention to implement the contents of the Baghdad Summit resolution concerning the international fund to assist Lebanon. The Pope welcomed the idea and stressed his support for it.

The committee had talks with the Italian foreign minister, Gianni de Michelis, who expressed his country's continuous support for the committee's endeavors. He stressed the necessity of implementing the Al-Ta'if agreement, which is an appropriate basis for the ending of the crisis in Lebanon, and to enable Lebanon to recover its unity, sovereignty, and independence.

The Italian minister welcomed the Arab initiative concerning the creation of a fund to assist Lebanon and showed his country's readiness to contribute to it.

He also informed the committee that Italy, which is to preside over the European Community beginning next July, will ensure the European Community's necessary cooperation with and support for this project.

International Fund for Lebanon Aid Set Up

LD2206200890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Riyadh, Rabat, Algiers, 22 June 1990, SPA—The leaders of the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee concerned with solving the Lebanese crisis have announced the setting up of the International Fund for Assisting Lebanon. This came in a statement issued today, Friday, by the leaders of the Committee: the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of Saudi Arabia; His Majesty King Hassan II, king of the Kingdom of Morocco; and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. It was released simultaneously in Rabat, Algiers, and Riyadh. Here is the text:

From the premise of the decision adopted by the extraordinary Arab summit which was held in Baghdad 28-30 May, as a result of which the Higher Arab Tripartite Committee was called upon to continue its efforts with the aim of completing the implementation of the Al-Ta'if agreement;

And in line with what was agreed upon at the Baghdad extraordinary summit: That the peace process in Lebanon must be accompanied at the same time by efforts concerned with the revival of its institutions, the operating of its public utilities, and the rebuilding of its infrastructure, in order to reduce the physical sufferings of its people and the inhumane and extremely harsh conditions which have settled down in all parts of the country over 15 years, leaving behind them a tragic situation in which destruction has reached limits that

cannot be described, and as a result of which many vital and basic utilities, without which life cannot be proper and man's humanity and dignity cannot be achieved, have broken down;

Given that the extraordinary summit had called for the establishment of an international fund for assisting Lebanon which would serve reconstruction in Lebanon and reinject life in its economic structures, with the summit having entrusted the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee with the task of putting forward precise ideas about the subject, and having expressed its commitment to give the necessary support for the project, given all this, the leaders of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee announce the establishment of the foundation in question under the name of the International Fund for Assisting Lebanon, with a capital of one billion U.S. dollars to which states and international bodies will be subscribing.

The tripartite committee urges the fraternal Arab states to meet their commitments to this vital project in accordance with the contents of the resolution of the extraordinary Baghdad summit.

Likewise, the committee addresses itself to all the other states in the international community to contribute to this suggested fund so that it may be able to realize the objectives expected from it. The Committee has prepared a draft statute which will be distributed to the Arab and foreign states and to international institutions to study and decide upon at the constituent meeting. The Arab Higher Tripartite Committee calls for the convening of this constituent meeting in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 10 and 11 September 1990.

Issued in Rabat, Algiers, and Riyadh on 22 June 1990.

Maghreb Union Regrets U.S. Breach With PLO

LD2306224890 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Following the U.S. decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Ministerial Council issued a press release calling on Washington to reconsider its decision and to face its responsibilities and bring Israel around to respect the UN resolutions and international legitimacy as well as to recognize the national and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The press release also voices the AMU's solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people to recover all their national and legitimate rights. The AMU Ministerial Council expresses regret over the U.S. measure which contradicts its declared intentions to push forward the peace process; it dashes the hopes that the Palestinian people and all peace- and justice-loving peoples have pinned on a positive U.S. stance. The U.S. decision encourages the Israelis to show more extremism and violate the rights of the Palestinian citizens and thwart the efforts aimed at finding a just and lasting settlement in the Palestinian cause.

Gulf Press Attacks U.S. Mideast Policy

JN2406170290 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Manama, Jun 24 (GNA)—[passage omitted] Bahraini daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ expressed astonishment over current Arab attempts to convince the U.S. to reconsider its decision to suspend dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

In its editorial, the paper said the American Administration tried to blackmail the PLO through the dialogue, despite the organisation's concessions that the U.S. had never expected.

The paper called for the implementation of Baghdad summit resolutions regarding reconsideration of Arab relations with the international powers. [passage omitted]

Qatari AL-'ARAB newspaper wondered at the U.S. insistence on its position hostile to the Arabs and biased to Israel after suspending its dialogue with the PLO.

In its editorial today the paper warned against the U.S. commitment to its position and its biased policy which threatens peace and stability in the region as it encourages Israel to launch fresh attacks against Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah's Khalaf Says Peace Initiative 'Frozen'

Reported by AL-ANBA'

JN2306121890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 23 Jun (WAKH)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has disclosed that the Palestinian peace initiative has been frozen [jammadat]. He said that the PLO did not expect serious steps on the road to peace either from the United States or from Israel in response to this initiative declared by the Palestine National Council in its 19th session in Algiers in November 1988. In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' published today, Khalaf noted that the PLO sought to explain to the world that Israel (?opposes) peace and that America is completely biased toward Israel.

Abu-Iyad stated that the Palestinian move must be placed within an Arab course; that is, something should emerge on the eastern front such as strong relations among Jordan, Iraq, and Syria. He noted that the PLO enjoys Arab support that will deter any possible Israeli aggression and prevent Israel's schemes to liquidate the intifadah or displace the Palestinians to Jordan as an alternative homeland. Abu-Iyad proposed that the eastern front be established on economic and political bases, not on military bases alone.

Abu-Iyad expressed his conviction that Washington should have continued the dialogue with the PLO until it became persuaded that Palestinian armed struggle is a right given to the people according to UN charters and laws. He also expressed his conviction that the United States will be responsible for the result of its decision. He noted that the decision will unleash all means inside the occupied Arab territory to force the Zionist enemy to retreat and accept a just settlement on the basis of establishing the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-Iyad said that the Palestinian initiative is frozen now. He took pains to explain that the PLO is not responsible for this freezing because the U.S. decision—in addition to the Israeli stand—caused the freezing of the peace efforts. He noted that the PLO will keep the initiative as its axis of action and will continue to intensify its contacts to obtain political support from Western Europe, East Europe, and the nonaligned countries.

Calls for Forming Arab Axis

JN2306162690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 23 Jun 90 pp 1, 26

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Excerpts] A senior Palestinian leader has revealed to AL-ANBA' that the Palestinian peace initiative has been frozen. [passage omitted]

Answering a question by AL-ANBA' on the scenario he anticipates in the coming phase, Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, said that it is necessary to put Palestinian actions within an Arab context; that is, something must be established on the eastern front, such as building strong ties among Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and the PLO—with Arab approval—to deter any possibility of the expected Israeli aggression and to avert Israel's plots to liquidate the intifadah or expel the Palestinians to Jordan as an alternative homeland. [passage omitted]

On the possibility of Jordan being subjected to an Israeli aggression, Abu-Iyad stressed that the PLO will strongly fight alongside this Arab country against the alternative homeland scheme, adding that there is no alternative to the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. Anyone who obstructs this endeavor is not serious about facing the Israeli scheme, he said.

The Palestinian leader referred to expected threats against proposed Arab coordination in view of the presence of separate and conflicting [munfaridah wa mutanafirah] Arab alliances. He expressed the opinion that these alliances must be discounted for the sake of a comprehensive Arab axis concerned with confrontation. He also stressed the need for further unity among Palestinians, which would join everyone together without exception, including the fundamentalists, within the framework of the Unified Leadership inside [the occupied territories], in addition to diversifying the modes of struggle without excluding anyone.

He also said that he believes the peace process is the loser in the Middle East, and that the U.S. Administration has given extremists from all sides—particularly the right-wing forces in Israel—the opportunity to work against the peace process. He also referred to plans that the Shamir government will begin to implement in stages.

Answering a question on whether he agrees with what U.S. President George Bush said to the effect that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue has achieved progress in the peace process, Abu-Iyad said that this is relatively true, but if this was the President's opinion, then why did he decide to suspend the dialogue?

He reiterated that the United States has violated all its international commitments since it set three conditions regarding terrorism, Resolution 242, and recognition of Israel, and received a positive answer to all three.

He said he believes that Washington should have continued the dialogue with the PLO until it became convinced that the Palestinian armed struggle is a right given to the people in accordance with the UN charters and laws.

Regarding what is required on the Arab and international levels to face the U.S.-Israeli position, Abu-Iyad said that Arabs know what they have to do, noting that they have not done enough, or what they should have done, to respond to the U.S. decision.

He said he believes the United States will be responsible for the consequences of its decision. He said that the decision will unleash all means inside the occupied territories to force the Zionist enemy to retreat and accept the just settlement on the basis of the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Abu-Iyad said that the Palestinian initiative is now frozen. However, he took pains to say that the PLO is not responsible, because the U.S. decision—in addition to the Israeli position—has frozen the peace efforts. However, he said, the PLO will keep the initiative as a pivot of its policy, and will continue to intensify contacts to obtain political support in West Europe, East Europe, and the nonaligned countries.

DFLP's Ra'fat Concurs

JN2306092190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jun 90 pp 1, 24

[Report by Hani al-Duwayk headlined: "The Executive Committee Decides To Boycott U.S. Diplomacy; Washington's Stand Means It Is Withdrawing From the Peace Process"]

[Text] Salih Ra'fat, member of the PLO Central Council and the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has announced the PLO's decision to stop all contacts and meetings between national Palestinian figures and any official from the U.S. Administration or the Israeli enemy's government in the occupied territory, Washington, or anywhere else

in the world. In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Ra'fat said that the PLO Executive Committee made the decision at the conclusion of its meetings in the Iraqi capital this week in consultation and coordination with the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah. The move is the first step in response to U.S. President Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO.

Salih Ra'fat added that, to confront the U.S. decision, the Palestinian leaders will present a group of proposals to the sisterly Arab countries in order to adopt a series of measures beginning with the recall of Arab ambassadors to Washington and ending with economic measures to pressure the U.S. Administration, and to embark on collective Arab contacts with the other members of the UN Security Council for an international conference to find a lasting and comprehensive solution in the Middle East.

The Palestinian official noted that the PLO representatives in the Arab working committee stemming from the Baghdad Summit, which began meeting in Baghdad yesterday, will propose an emergency meeting for Arab foreign ministers to adopt a collective Arab stand and face the war America has launched against the PLO and the Palestinian people.

Salih Ra'fat added that the U.S. Administration's behavior has one meaning only; that is, to cover up for the crimes and massacres perpetrated by the Israeli occupation authorities against our people in the occupied homeland. This takes place at a time when the entire world, including 14 states on the Security Council, have condemned these massacres and called for protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. The suspension of the dialogue with the PLO constitutes strong American support for Shamir's extremist right-wing government and the crimes this government is committing and will commit in a coming stage against our people. The decision also means strong support for the aggressive policy of this government which beats the drums of war in the region and whose political and military leaders are threatening to quell the intifadah and to undertake attacks against Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and other Arab centers.

Salih Ra'fat said that the suspension of the dialogue at this particular time is a cover for this aggressive policy of the extremist Israeli Government. At the same time, America is trying to blame the PLO for obstructing the peace process in the region while the entire world is fully aware that the past and present Israeli governments as well as the current U.S. Administration ar the ones that obstructed the peace process in the region. The PLO has declared—through the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in its 19th Session in Algiers and through the Palestinian peace initiatives in Geneva and other pronouncements—that it is going ahead with its political peace initiative supported by the intifadah and the Arab brothers.

He added that the U.S. Administration has thus dealt a heavy blow to the peace process in the region and unequivocally stressed that it cannot unilaterally play any positive role toward the establishment of peace in the region.

Regarding the flimsy reasons on which Bush depends, the PLO Central Council member said the operation was not aimed at civilians. Otherwise, he said, the fighters could have killed scores of bathers who were on the beach at the time of the operation. As confirmed by the Palestine Liberation Front, the fighters were heading toward purely military targets. Therefore, the U.S. Administration's claims are flimsy and unsubstantiated.

He added: We in the Palestinian leadership have turned down all U.S. requests that the PLO condemn the operation and expel brother Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] from the Executive Committee. We considered this blatant interference in our internal affairs and an encroachment on the dignity of our people and strugglers. Hence, we firmly rejected them.

Therefore, we can say that the suspension of the dialogue came as a cover for the Israeli Government, which rejected all peace initiatives, including Baker's five-point plan, and declared its program to intensify immigration and settlement, liquidate the intifadah, and threaten the Arab countries.

He said that the organization was expecting this move by the United States in view of the U.S. Administration's continuous political offensive against the Palestinian initiative. The notorious message from the United States to the Arab leaders on the eve of the Baghdad summit asked that the support extended to the Palestinian initiative by the Casablanca summit be withdrawn. Thus it was to be expected that the United States would shirk its responsibility and duty as a superpower to work seriously for the attainment of a just settlement. By suspending the dialogue with a principal party, the U.S. Administration has simply declared that it is withdrawing from the serious search for comprehensive solutions to the region's crisis.

As for the way to encounter this step, which is hostile to the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, Ra'fat said the intifadah, which forced the United States to open a dialogue with the organization in 1988, should be escalated and all forms of political and armed popular struggle against the occupation forces should continue. Besides, the Palestinian people should jointly work with the sisterly Arab countries for the realization of the Baghdad summit resolutions, and all Arab capabilities, particularly economic ones, should be used to bring pressure to bear on the United States. Moreover, the organization and the Arabs should continue their international political activity. This is the only way to force the United States to yield to the will of the Arab and international community, he said.

The DFLP official added that the PLO leaders have also held wide-scale international contacts with the EEC, the USSR, the PRC, the nonaligned countries, and the Islamic and African countries to adopt a responsible

position to face the U.S. decision, which has torpedoed all international efforts to settle the conflict in the Middle East, and to work toward a special meeting of the UN General Assembly to discuss the current situation.

He said that among the methods of confrontation is the continued development and escalation of the intifadah, deeper unity among the ranks of our people inside and outside the occupied territory, and sustained struggle in all its militant forms, foremost among them armed struggle to confront the Israeli occupation. He noted that the suspension of the dialogue will not affect the methods and forms of struggle practiced by the PLO and the Palestinian people.

The DFLP Central Committee member declared that the PLO and its factions are against the practice of armed action against any civilian targets, whether Israeli or American, outside the occupied homeland. However, we stress our legitimate right to engage in armed action against the occupation of our Palestinian and Arab territory.

On the continuation of Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, Salih Ra'fat expressed the PLO's hope that the meeting of Arab foreign and finance ministers called for by the Baghdad summit will be held to tackle the issue on the international level. The meeting, he added, will seek to ensure collective Arab action against Moscow, Washington, and other countries to put an end to the emigration. The PLO will also continue contacts with the Soviet leaders to put an end to this serious immigration to the entire region, not only Palestine. He called for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian-Arab stance to face the dangers of immigration before it gets worse.

Regarding a possible outbreak of a war in the region in the near future, he said: In light of our experience with the Zionist enemy, we find that when the enemy's security, economic, and internal crisis deteriorates, it seeks to export the crisis. Hence, the enemy leaders began to issue threats against Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and recently Egypt. Therefore, and in light of the formation of the current government in Israel, we do not rule out that the occupation forces might resort to exporting their internal crisis by launching an aggression on one or more than one Arab country.

He appealed to Arab leaders to revive the Collective Arab Defense Pact and increase economic, political, and military cooperation among the Arab states to confront the coming aggressive schemes.

The DFLP official stressed the importance of bilateral Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the importance of entrenching these relations to confront the possibilities of an Israeli aggression in the coming period.

PLO Denies Reported Peace Initiative Freeze

Ambassador in Baghdad Comments

NC2406113290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1059 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (MENA)—'Azzam al-Ahmad, Palestine's ambassador in Baghdad, has denied reports that the PLO has frozen the Palestinian peace initiative in response to President George Bush's decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO.

The Palestinian ambassador was answering a question by a MENA correspondent in Baghdad regarding this issue, as well as a statement attributed to Salih Ra'fat, a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC], published in Amman. This statement indicated that, in its meeting held in Baghdad last Thursday, the PLO decided to halt all contacts and meetings between any Palestinian national figure and any envoy or official of the U.S. Administration or the Israeli Government.

The ambassador stressed the PLO's adherence to the Palestinian initiative passed by the PNC in its 1988 session in Algiers. He said that the PLO Executive Committee had emphasized this in its recent meeting in Baghdad.

Khalaf Denies Media Reports

JN2506074690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jun 90 p 1, 20

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, denied recent media reports which cite him as saying that the Palestinian peace initiative proposed by the Palestine National Council in its 19th session in Algiers in 1988, has been frozen.

Abu-Iyad said in a telephone call with AL-DUSTUR from Tunis that the PLO adheres to its initiative more than ever before and that it will continue to increase its contacts with West European countries, the Soviet Union, and the UN Security Council states to rally support for its initiative and to exert greater effort toward its realization.

He made clear that his statement to the Tunisian newspaper, AL-SABAH, was misquoted as he had said that the U.S. decision to suspend the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue would lead to the freezing of the Palestinian peace initiative.

Abu-Iyad added that the PLO has not and will not announce its peace initiative is cancelled or frozen.

On the other hand, a ranking Palestinian official has said the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO is aimed at pressuring Europe, Japan, and the allies of the United States to retreat from their present stands in support of the Palestinian peace initiative.

The Palestinian official said that suspending dialogue with the PLO is a challenge to the Baghdad summit

resolutions, which affirmed support for the Palestinian peace initiative and the Palestinian people, and tests the Arab leaders' credibility and extent of seriousness to implement their resolutions.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he added that this step from the U.S. side came as no surprise because the dialogue has practically been suspended since June 1989 when the official [direct] dialogue sessions ceased and were substituted by indirect channels such as fraternal Egypt and numerous other sides, and by brief meetings between the Palestinian and U.S. ambassadors in Tunis.

He said the PLO will continue its political activity with the United States' allies who show understanding for the Palestinian rights and Palestinian people's legitimate demands. This hinges on continuing the valiant intifadah in the occupied homeland and the massive struggle in all its forms, depending on the extent of the Arab nation's ability to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions by using all the Arab potentials and resources in the battle, and in pressuring the U.S. Administration to submit to the international community's will and approve the convening of an international conference.

He affirmed that the PLO and Palestinian people have no alternative but to continue the same policy of escalating the intifadah, continuing the Palestinian peace initiative on the international level, and following up the Baghdad summit resolutions and international contacts to provide our people under occupation with security and establish comprehensive peace in the region.

He also affirmed that the PLO will continue its struggle and fight on various levels and fronts in all its forms, including armed struggle, inside the occupied homeland.

PLO Seeks Unified Arab Stance on U.S. Dialogue

'Arafat Meets With Klibi

JN2206182090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Jun (WAKH)—The PLO has embarked on large-scale political moves on the Arab scene to obtain a unified Arab stance on the U.S. decision to suspend the dialogue.

Reliable Palestinian sources told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held a lengthy meeting with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Baghdad this evening to discuss the implications of the U.S. Administration's decision and the threats posed to pan-Arab security by various parties.

In a statement issued last night, the PLO urged Arab states to translate the Baghdad summit resolutions into practical measures to confront the U.S. decision, which encourages the perpetration of acts of repression and savage crimes in the occupied territories.

These sources said the PLO instructed its representatives abroad to hold intensive contacts with various political forces and official agencies on the issue.

It is to be recalled that a decision was made at the Baghdad summit to form an Arab team composed of the General Secretariat of the Arab League and the PLO to study the threats to the security of the Arab homeland and also to find the best means of confronting these threats.

Calls Foreign Ministers Meeting

NC2306145890 Paris AFP in English 1342 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 23 (AFP)—The PLO has called for a meeting of Arab foreign ministers next week to discuss Washington's decision to break off its dialogue with the organisation, Palestinian sources said here Saturday.

During the meeting, requested for Wednesday at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis, the PLO would try to obtain a common Arab position over the move announced by President George Bush Wednesday, the sources said.

They said the request was made by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during talks here Friday with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, as part of a diplomatic offensive aimed at gathering support against the United States.

Mr. Bush said he was breaking off the 18-month old dialogue because the Palestine Liberation Organisation had failed to clearly condemn an abortive Palestinian commando attack on Israeli beaches last month.

After the raid the PLO issued a statement condemning attacks targetting civilians in general without referring to the May 30 commando raid, which was claimed by the Palestine Liberation Front whose leader Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] sits on the PLO Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee Thursday described the U.S. decision as "a blow to the peace process and to the credibility of the American administration" and "an encouragement to the Israeli government's policy of war and aggression."

Saudi Arabia Saturday expressed regret at the break-off of the dialogue and called on Washington to reverse its decision.

The move "will encourage the Israeli authorities to repress Palestinians in the occupied territories and harm efforts to establish a just and global peace," the Saudi Press Agency said, quoting an official spokesman.

In a separate development, Mr. 'Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction said Saturday that it had carried out military manoeuvers with live ammunition east of the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon.

Fatah's military chief in Lebanon, Commander 'Aala', said Friday's manoeuvers, which simulated an Israeli helicopter

attack, were aimed at "maintaining a high level of military readiness as Israeli threats become greater."

Meets Arab Envoys

JN2406124890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Jun (INA)—Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman and president of the State of Palestine, received the accredited Arab ambassadors in Baghdad today to discuss the latest developments in both the Arab and international arenas, developments in the occupied Arab territories, and the continued repressive Zionist practices against the Palestinian people.

'Azzam al-Ahmad, the state of Palestine's ambassador in Baghdad, told INA that Yasir 'Arafat had officially informed the Arab ambassadors of the importance of holding a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis next Wednesday in order to discuss U.S. President George Bush's decision to break off the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, adopt a unified Arab decision toward the issue, and find ways to confront the Zionist threats and challenges.

Discussion Continues on U.S. Dialogue Suspension

PFLP Issues Statement

LD2306171490 Algiers APS in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Algiers, 23 June 1990—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has declared that "its decision concerning the need to confront the Zionist enemy and its military machine cannot be postponed, and is in line with the rights of the Palestinian people to defend itself by armed struggle, which was approved by the charters of the UN and international legitimacy."

The Front said in a press statement published in Algiers today in reply to the decision by the U.S. Administration to suspend the dialogue with the PLO, using as "a pretext" Operation Jerusalem. This is the Operation Jerusalem the U.S. Administration had used as pretext, under the pressure of the Zionist lobby, for the escalation of enmity to our people and the PLO, and had tried through it to blackmail the PLO and Mr. Yasir 'Arafat [word indistinct] using all pressures to reach its objective—serving the objectives of the Zionist enemy—and to cover up his ugly terrorist actions against the sons on the occupied land and those outside it, under the pretext that the naval Operation Jerusalem was a "terrorist" action aimed against civilians on the Palestinian coast.

In the statement, the Front said the operation was against the naval, (?land) and air forces of the Zionist enemy, and it had not harmed civilians; this was admitted by the enemy itself and by eyewitnesses. The statement added that our decision was clear: to hit the Zionist military establishment and not to harm civilians, despite the fact that our fighters were on land. This was Operation Jerusalem, which the U.S. Administration used as a pretext to cover up its inability to confront the Zionist lobby's pressure to halt its dialogue with the PLO.

The Front praised the attitude of the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat for standing against struggle in the face of the U.S. pressures and for not giving in to blackmail, which has persisted since the first moment.

At the same time, the Front declared its determination to confront the enemy in the fight for the freedom of the people, the liberation of the Palestinian land, the establishment of the independent Palestinian state; and to defeat those who occupy it and desecrate its Islamic and Christian holy places in noble Jerusalem and the Ibrahimi mosque in Hebron.

Khalaf Denies Inquiry Underway

JN2306095590 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 1

[Excerpts] Capitals, Agencies, AL-QABAS—In the wake of U.S. President George Bush's decision to break off the dialogue with the PLO, Palestinian voices have been raised demanding that the peace option be abandoned and the military one revived against Israel. In the meantime, the PLO leaders continued to meet in Baghdad to discuss a reply to the decision.

In a statement to AL-QABAS, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] denied that an inquiry commission had been formed to interrogate Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]. He added that Bush's decision would escalate violence in the region.

Palestinian sources stressed that the PLO will not yield to U.S. pressures. He warned of the possible consequences of the U.S. decision for the Middle East peace process. PLO officials predicted a new wave of violence in the region as a result of the U.S. decision. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni and Walid al-Khalidi, two Palestinian notables, told AL-QABAS that Bush's decision opens the door for war in the region.

German sources told AL-QABAS that the decision to suspend talks may negatively reflect on Jordan and that Israel may benefit from the new situation to implement its schemes in Jordan, echoing increasing concern over the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

West Bank Figures Cited

PM2206154690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 90 pp 1-2

[Sa'idah Ahmad report: "Occupied Territory Figures Criticize Decision To Suspend Dialogue and Its Timing"]

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—Palestinian figures in the occupied territory regard U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO as a blow to the peace process and as support for Israeli intransigence. In statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT these figures said that the move puts the region on the verge of war.

Former Ramallah Deputy Mayor Priest 'Awdah al-Rantisi emphasized that there can be no peace without PLO participation in the peace process.

AL-FAJR Chief Editor Hanna Sinyurah said the U.S. decision was a reward to Shamir's government and showed disregard for Palestinian human rights. Samir Katibah, chairman of the West Bank Doctors Association, said that the decision demonstrates how little regard certain U.S. circles have for the Palestinian people's cause.

Samihah Khalil, chairman of the al-Birah Family Welfare Society, said that the decision surprised nobody, because the dialogue produced no significant results favorable to Palestinian objectives.

Dr. Riyad al-Maliki expressed the belief that the decision would not affect the continuation of the Palestinian peace initiative, which is a clear strategy not a temporary tactic.

Zahidah Kamal, chairman of the Womens Action Association, said the decision was a result of Israeli pressure.

Bir Zayt University lecturer Ghassan al-Khatib said the U.S. President's decision was a negative step that will hinder the peaceful efforts in the region; but, he added, that step will not greatly harm the Palestinians because they made no practical gains through the dialogue.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, Red Crescent Director Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue achieved nothing and led to no progress in the peace process, so the Palestinians have nothing to lose from its suspension.

Dr. Zakariya al-Anma, chairman of the strip's Doctors Association, said that the decision reflects support for Israeli intransigence. He said that the PLO's call for a unified Arab response to Washington should be upheld.

As'ad al-Saftawi said that the dialogue's suspension could destroy the peace efforts in the region.

Furayh Abu-Madin, chairman of the strip's Lawyers Association, said that the timing of the suspension of the dialogue was deliberate and that its aim was to support the right wing government in Israel.

Ahmad al-Yazihi said that the dialogue was in Israel's favor from the very beginning.

Dr. Muhammad Zayn-al-Din, chairman of the Blood Bank Society, said that the Palestinian problem can only be resolved through an international conference.

Bassam al-Shak'ah said: "I believe we should have stopped the dialogue ourselves because, as all our Palestinian leaders without exception said, the dialogue had reached a dead end."

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said: Bush's decision on the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue was an early escape from efforts to boost the peace process in the region, particulary since the U.S. Administration has realized that Israel does not want peace.

Paper Views Effects on Peace

PM2206151690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 13

[Ghassan Shirbil article: "Dialogue Between Exhaustion And Indecision"]

[Excerpts] The peace process did not stop the day before yesterday with President George Bush's announcement of the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO. It stopped before that, specifically when the Israeli national unity government failed to respond positively to U.S. Secretary of States' proposals. That stoppage was emphasized when Shimon Peres failed to form a government willing to respond to the U.S. Administration's proposals to reactivate the peace process.

In fact all that is happening now would not have taken place if Baker had succeeded in arranging a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Without an Israeli willingness to offer some limited concessions in order to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has nothing to offer. Because you make peace with your enemies. This is what the Palestinian leadership says. Therefore the peace which can end the conflict is the Palestinian-Israeli peace, not the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue. And in view of the complete absence of the language of peace on the part of the decisionmakers in Israel, the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue becomes a mere exhaustion of the PLO. [passage omitted]

The American side cannot secure from Israel that which could help revive the Baker Plan. And the Palestinian leadership cannot condemn a seaborne operation when the immigration coup is escalating against the intifadah. However, the suspension of the dialogue does not mean the end of everything. The temporary U.S. withdrawal from peace efforts—which can be also attributed to internal and electoral considerations—does not mean the absence of a later U.S. role. The Shamir government's reliance on ending the intifadah seems like a return to something which has already been tried before. The suspension of the dialogue, however, could open the way to intransigent positions designed to influence the conditions for and features of a settlement when it is decided to return to them. And the return of intransigence is very dangerous at this time, if we take account of the clouds gathering over the region. From now on the smell of war will accompany any talk about faltering peace.

Restoral Called Inevitable

JN2306202090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1822 GMT 23 Jun 90

["A Reading of the Political Situation" feature]

[Text] The United States' recent position toward the PLO and its decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO have not surprised us, because this has been the traditional U.S. stance on the Palestine question and the PLO for over than 40 years. We and the world know that

opening the dialogue with the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people came as a result of the accumulation of certain factors, including the absolute Palestinian rejection of the Israeli occupation, the all-encompassing Palestinian intifadah, the absolute Palestinian unity, and the failure of the enemies to find an alternative to distract the attention of the Palestinian masses, fragment their unity, and dissolve their intifadah.

It is these factors that prompted the United States, the greatest power in the world, within its well known pragmatism, to take a relatively balanced position that is closer to U.S. interests than to anything else in the old, historic, and clear-cut Arab-Zionist and Palestinian-Israeli conflict

Over the past 18 months of the dialogue, the Americans have insisted on refusing to recognize the reality and see it as it is. Therefore, they appeared as though they were holding a dialogue with an illusion rather than with the most basic party in a bitter conflict. They also appeared as if they were holding the dialogue without the purpose of reaching a compromise or a settlement of the conflict acceptable to the conflicting parties, as logic would dictate. They were talking to distract attention, waste time, and launch balloons to restore the pre-intifadah situation.

We view this position as an actual contradiction to the American mentality and political method. It is an American contradiction with the American nature itself. It is a strange American schizophrenia. The U.S. method and policy may overwhelm the whole world and leave its mark on the age, except with regard to the Middle East and Palestine. It is only a U.S. ploy. Washington knows that it cannot change the factors of reality just because it wants to.

Now we are together in the middle of a new race, which is full of brutal mass killings, and which is also full of legendary Palestinian steadfastness, of a Palestinian determination that cannot be destroyed, and of a Palestinian ability to confront and fight until victory. We are together in this race to see in the final analysis whose ideas will prevail, despite strong winds. We are confident that Washington will, in the end, come to ask for a dialogue and for a real peace.

We will continue to believe in this historic peace, because it is we who have laid its groundwork, while they and their allies, their small allies, rejected it. At the same time, the whole world has recognized the credibility and feasibility of the Palestinian peace initiative, as indicated by the whole world's welcome, except by Washington and Tel Aviv, of the dialogue with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He who recognizes the people should recognize their representative, if he wants to reach a solution. This will take place, and the enemies will be forced to recognize it when the gamble on the new war government in Israel collapses. Those wagering are born dead. This will be confirmed in the near future.

Radio Comments

LD2306231890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The timing of U.S. President Bush's announcement to suspend what he termed the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue has deep significance and meaning. We are astounded by the game with facts and truths that is dominating the U.S. President's mind, and which provides a summary of a history of U.S. violation, injustice, hatred, and hostility toward Palestinians. That makes us record our astonishment again over that U.S. phenomenon of the various administrations, particularly during President Bush's term.

The U.S. announcement came on the eve of the 30th day since the bloody massacre, not only of Palestinian workers who were mown down by an Israeli soldier, but also of the parallel massacres which followed by a few hours and which were carried out by the official Israeli army, and equally, we think, which came as a celebration of the Israeli Zionist right—that is more intensely fanatical, bloody and racist—represented by the Likud government.

We have not heard that Bush had boycotted Israel due to its open official terrorism. We have not seen him stop his economic and military aid to it. He has not even expressed his displeasure by criticizing these vile massacres. He moved in a completely opposite direction when he later issued his orders regarding the threat of annihilation to Palestinians to his representative at the Security Council which directed him to stand against international consensus and throw the veto at the 14 Security Council members. What kind of political surrealism are we witnessing? What kind of madness and folly is taking place in the U.S. Administration's mind that makes it demand that we apologize for an action we have not committed in retaliation to the organized, terroristic, and racist cold-blooded murders perpetrated by the [Israeli] government and Army and the Jewish extremists? How could President Bush believe that we would let him threaten us by suspending that cold and obscure dialogue which lasted 18 months without leading to one U.S. plan that includes any concern for the realization of a just and comprehensive peace to encourage any belief in achieving peace, while he can see our people's intifadah moving heroically along the path of confronting the occupiers and murderers of women, children, and men with bare chests and stones?

We do not know how President Bush interprets events and variables, or by what measure the U.S. Administration weighs its political positions and moves. For a moment we thought that matters had become as clear as they could, and that what had belonged to the U.S.-camouflaged Israeli terrorist right in the recent and far past was developing, as a result of the intifadah and the Iraqi Arab binary weapons and missiles, into an extremely dangerous game which could overcome Israel and inflict the most serious threats and damage on the

United States. If the war starts, this time it will not be a war of a decisive strike but one which could get out of hand and cease to be only a war of political calculations but one of self-determination.

Mr. Bush cannot ignore us. We are present on the political map with all the strength that [words indistinct]. The biggest evidence to that is that his envoy stood alone to raise the veto which has put the United States in a shameful position not worthy of a superpower which has appointed itself, falsely, as the protector of human rights. Mr. Bush also cannot make us go along with him by renouncing an action we had not carried out in exchange for his refusal to tighten the rein on the blatant daily terrorism openly perpetrated by Israel and in the presence of witnesses, and for contacts which have not risen to the level of dialogue.

Is it the U.S. impudence that turns everything on their heads and turns falsehood into truth and truth into falsehood, or is it the political and moral decline that brings about the belief that a superpower has the right to use two different scales for measurement, despite the clarity of perception and firm establishment of the truth? It definitely is the two together; impudence and decline, and above them shortsightedness and inadequacy in both political and moral perception.

Abu-Sharif Conducts News Conference 24 Jun

NC2406164890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jun (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to bolster the Middle East peace process and to attain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Asked about President Husni Mubarak's contacts with U.S. President George Bush and Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's visit to Washington by the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Abu-Sharif said that Egypt continues to make positive and constructive efforts to create the proper atmosphere and pave the way for a just peace in the Middle East.

At a news conference held in Tunis today, Abu-Sharif declared that the current Egyptian efforts are being made within this framework.

He added: We now urge President Bush to reveal to the world and to the American people the true stand of Shamir's government, which continues to reject all efforts to begin the peace process. Furthermore, it continues to escalate the bloody violence by resorting to killing, seizing land, settling immigrant Jews [in the occupied territories], and whipping up an atmosphere of war in the Middle East. Such a war would be disastrous for the entire region.

Abu-Sharif called on all Arab countries to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions and to utilize Arab resources, economic power, and political action in this crucial battle to clarify the situation in the Middle East and to force Israel to withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories.

Abu-Sharif began his news conference by declaring that after President Bush announced that he was suspending the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, the Israeli Government began to implement a program of extensive and bloody operations against Palestinians, especially in the areas in which Shamir is planning to settle Soviet Jews. Abu-Sharif said that the Israeli occupation forces perpetrated massacres against the Palestinian people two days ago and added that these forces have been firing indiscriminately at Palestinians in various areas of the West Bank and Gaza since this morning, killing two martyrs and wounding 330 people. He noted that most of the casualties resulted from the use of live ammunition.

Bassam Abu-Sharif said that he has information indicating that Israel has approved a program to escalate violence against the Palestinian people to crush the intifadah as quickly as possible and undermine the Palestinian people's morale in locations designated as settlement areas, such as Jerusalem and surrounding villages. He said that these villages have been subjected to massacres for three days.

Abu-Sharif disclosed that Israeli regular army forces are currently making extensive use of helicopters to fire bullets and tear gas canisters at demonstrators. He said that this gas is being examined to determine its chemical composition, adding that the substances it contains cause asphyxiation among children, men, and women. He said that the bullets used in the village of Silwan were of a new type which contains small nails that cause death in the event of a direct hit. He also revealed that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens has issued instructions to establish armed militias in Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza to defend the new settlers who are usurping land to build new houses. He added that the use of the Israeli regular army and the security forces is now done in accordance with a government decision. He said that any Israeli is now permitted to carry a machine gun and grenades and to kill Palestinians on the pretext of defending a settlement built on land that was usurped by force.

Abu-Sharif referred to another new Israeli decision that grants the necessary military protection to armed civilians; that is, the new Israeli militias. He added that under this decision, a number of Israeli reserve officers have been instructed to supervise these new military forces. Abu-Sharif noted that this indicates that the Israeli Government has clearly decided to step up the killing of Palestinians.

Abu-Sharif stressed that the situation has become dangerous and requires prompt international action in view of these new measures and the continuation of the crimes committed by the Israeli regular army forces on clear orders from Defense Minister Moshe Arens. This indicates that despite U.S. President Bush's letter asking the Israeli Government to clearly define its stand on the peace process and

agree to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Israeli Government in practice has rejected these two resolutions, as well as other UN resolutions, and the U.S. proposals for starting negotiations conducive to a political solution.

Abu-Sharif said this situation requires us to insist on prompt international action to protect the Palestinian people from the bloody massacres being prepared by Shamir and his government. We also demand prompt international action to discuss ways and means to halt settlement activity in the occupied territories, stop wholesale and individual cases of murder, set a timetable for ending the occupation of Palestinian territory, and prepare for and convene an international peace conference to achieve a just political settlement in the Middle East, as agreed upon between Bush and Gorbachev.

Abu-Sharif called on U.S. President Bush, who suspended the dialogue with the PLO because it did not condemn the seaborne operation carried out by the Palestine Liberation Front, to use one standard when dealing with the Middle East and to express a clear stand on the Israeli regular army's recent acts against the Palestinian people. He also called on Bush to use the law that provides for halting U.S. aid to states violating human rights. He asked Bush to apply this law against the Israeli Government, which has been violating Palestinian human rights for 23 years and which has been committing massacres against the Palestinian people for 3 years.

Abu-Sharif stressed that the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO will resist occupation and settlement activity on their land, which is being usurped by force, and will use all means at their disposal to resist occupation. He also stressed that the PLO is committed to the initiative announced by 'Arafat on 13 December 1988. The PLO will also remain committed to the search for peace based on justice. It will intensify political efforts with all states that support legtimate Palestinian rights so they may adopt practical measures to isolate the Israeli Government and to put pressure on it to declare its commitment to Resolutions 242 and 338 and UN resolutions on Palestinian human rights.

Abu-Sharif stressed that the PLO honors its obligations, be they 'Arafat's pledges or the Palestine National Council pledges, especially the Cairo declaration renouncing and condemning terrorism in all its forms.

Abu-Sharif added that Israel's use of terrorism against the Palestinians living under occupation and its rejection of the peace efforts will generate more resistance to occupation and will open the door to acts of retaliation for the massacres committed against the Palestinians, violent acts for which the Israeli Government will bear sole responsibility.

Abu-Sharif warned that the situation in the Middle East is sensitive and delicate. All expect the U.S. Administration to use one standard in the Middle East. We are waiting for Bush to stand up tomorrow and denounce the Jerusalem-Silwan crimes because we are committed to the policy of denouncing terrorism in all forms and regardless of who commits it. We expect him to do the same.

U.S. Mideast Policy Called Contradictory

JN2306193090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1741 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, by claiming that it is the party best qualified to defend freedoms and human rights in the world and the only mediator that can advance the peace process in the Middle East, the United States is only throwing dust in people's eyes. This only expresses the U.S. policy's serious dilemma represented in the sharp contradiction between the claim and the deed.

The United States has a long history of suppressing freedoms and flagrantly violating human rights—from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs to the atrocities and crimes of Vietnam; from the use of terrorism in Latin and Central America, Lebanon, and other countries in the world to the unlimited support to the Zionist entity and its daily oppressive and terroristic practices against our people in the occupied Palestinian territories. All of this belies its claim to being the defender of freedom and human rights in the world.

When Washington claims that it is the only international mediator seeking to promote the peace process in the Middle East—while openly supplying the Zionist entity with all means of absolute rejection of the peace process itself—it is only practicing deception and forgery to pass off hostile schemes and settlement in the region.

Therefore, we say that one cannot distinguish between the core of U.S. policy in the region and the new government structure in the Zionist entity and its aggressive and expansionist program that was recently confirmed by terrorist Yitzhaq Shamir. By themselves, these statements constitute a Zionist document for frank aggression against our people and Arab nation.

Therefore, we can say that the U.S. positions and the clear features they have established on the enemy's political map represent the extent of the dilemma suffered by the U.S. policy—a policy that has besieged itself with the theory of hegemony, expansion, and aggression against our people and Arab nation.

We also say that this policy, which is suffering from this dilemma with all of its dimensions, will end in abject failure, especially since it is faced with a comprehensive Palestinian strength, represented by our people's valiant intifadah under the PLO, which will not stop until all hostile Zionist-U.S. plots are foiled and until our national legitimate rights are restored, no matter how big the challenges.

At any rate, the courageous stand in triumphant Iraq and the Arab awareness of the need for an effective and decisive pan-Arab position constitute the definitive response that will foil the hostile U.S. policy, guarantees

the protection of the Arab map from Zionist-U.S. threats, and achieve the desired Arab goals.

'Abbas To Continue Armed Struggle to 'Martyrdom'

NC2306184890 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), whose aborted raids last month against Israeli beaches prompted the U.S. to break off its 18-month dialogue with the PLO, vowed Saturday to keep up the armed struggle against Israel until "martyrdom".

"We are determined to confront the Zionist enemy (Israel) and fight him to guarantee the freedom of the Palestinian people," PFL leader Muhammad 'Abbas, better known as Abu-al-'Abbas, said here.

"We will pursue our path and fight those who occupy our territories," he said, in a statement released at PFL offices here, in reference to Israeli occupation since 1967 of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Nothing will stop us, except martyrdom," Abu-al-'Abbas added in his statement. [passage omitted]

'Abbas Reports to 'Arafat on 30 May Operation

Turns Over Raid File

LD2406160690 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1459 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Tunis, 24 June KUNA—The secretary general of the Front for the Liberation of Palestine Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] has handed a file on the front's recent fida'iyi [fedayeen] operation on the shores of Tel Aviv to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, to acquaint him with the details of the raid and help him take whatever measures are necessary to protect the Palestinian people's rights and face up to the U.S. administration, which has announced its support for the Israeli enemy.

Information obtained by KUNA today indicates that Abu al-'Abbas took this step in order to expose the U.S. stance in acting in collusion with Israel, and that he handed over a comprehensive and well-documented file with all the details and military secrets for communication only to the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution, forces.

The file contains comprehensive evidence on the "Jerusalem seaborne operation" as well as the measures taken to hit certain Israeli military targets, including detailed operational plans. Abu al-'Abbas gave the commander in chief full powers, based on his total confidence in him as a leader and president of the state of Palestine, to take whatever measures he thinks necessary to protect the Palestinian gains. [passage omitted]

MENA Details Report

NC2506060690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 24 Jun (MENA)—A report presented by Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] Leader Abu-al-'Abbas to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, affirmed that only specific military targets were the object of the Jerusalem seaborne operation.

The report, some pages of which the MENA correspondent in Tunis has seen, includes the detailed operational order pertaining to the operation that took place on the Tel Aviv shores on 30 May.

In his report to 'Arafat, Abu-al-'Abbas said: I leave it to the brother commander-in-chief to study the whole file and to use it as he sees fit to safeguard the Palestinian people's rights and to respond to the U.S. Administration which has sided with Israel, using imaginary intentions as a pretext, whereas the concrete facts point to our fighters discipline in waging a military war against an enemy who does not differentiate between a civilian and a military person but is waging a war only against the civilians.

In his report, Abu-al-'Abbas emphasized that all the American and Zionist attempts to tarnish the image of the Palestinian struggle under the pretext of terrorism can only fail and will not curb the Front fighters' resolve to fight and confront.

He added that Israeli terrorism is real terrorism which was expressed by the Israeli prime minister by killing UN representative Count Bernadotte, and by the Israeli Army, whose history is replete with dozens of massacres, especially those that were committed by Minister Sharon who, in his memoirs, admitted to blowing up the houses of the al-Samu' village and who was elated to hear the moans of the children and women coming from under the rubble of their destroyed homes at night.

Abu-al-'Abbas asserted that the PLF is determined to confront the Israeli occupation forces for the sake of the Palestinian people's freedom.

Al-Tamimi Urges 'Arafat To Join Armed Struggle

JN2406191890 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 21 Jun 90 p 1

[Report by Wafa' 'Amr from Amman]

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis has called on PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to abandon his peace initiative and join the armed struggle to liberate the entire Palestinian soil.

Addressing a news conference in Amman, Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, who identifies himself as the spiritual leader of this movement, stressed that "it would be impossible to find a peaceful solution" to the Palestine question. He called on 'Arafat to "stop this dangerous

game, return to armed struggle, and make Baghdad the center of his military activity."

Al-Tamimi, who has been residing in Amman since 1967, said the issue "is no longer one of Palestine only but of a nation facing danger, especially in light of the possible immigration of millions of Soviet Jews seeking places to live." He said this danger threatens Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the Arabian Gulf, Iraq, and Syria, noting that the Arab rulers "have not yet risen to their responsibility."

Replying to a question, Shaykh al-Tamimi denied press reports on his movement's connection with the 20 May attack on a bus carrying French tourists in the center of the Jordanian capital in which nine people were wounded.

He addressed a warning to the Israelis saying "if they try to attack Jordan, it will most probably be their final graveyard." He said the spirit of challenge suffuses the people of the intifadah and the Arab nation has restored this spirit with amazing persistence. He called on the Arab nation to unite, adding that the obstacle to the liberation of Palestine is not the Jews "whom we do not fear," but the Arab rulers and Arab fragmentation. Shaykh al-Tamimi added that the Arab nation possesses all the means of victory and, now that Islam has entered the region, Islamic jihad will escalate.

Shaykh al-Tamimi confirmed that the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis does not use Jordan's border to strike at Israel and that his movement is spread throughout the occupied territories and the region. However, he said, some movement members have used Jordan to cross into the occupied territory for military operations. These were individual operations and the leadership had no knowledge of them. He added that those individuals were warned more than once not to use Jordan's border to strike at Israel and that he had taken decisive measures against them, especially since the region is approaching an inevitable war and Shaykh al-Tamimi does not want his movement to be the one that detonates the situation. He stressed that he had stopped cooperating with those who disobeyed the movement's leadership and had "denied anything to them."

He categorically denied that his movement was part of the PLO and denied any intention to join it in the future. He said, however, that he does not seek to compete with the PLO over representation of the Palestinian people. He added that he will not join the PLO's factions nor will he participate in the Palestine National Council, and said his relationship was only with 'Arafat and was a personal one.

Shaykh al-Tamimi spoke about his recent visits to Libya and Iran and said he was officially invited for talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, saying: "My task is instigation—instigating the nation to jihad for the liberation of all of Palestine, and I have instigated al-Qadhdhafi to enter the battle since the shores of Palestine are open to all those who want to cross over, and al-Qadhdhafi was forthcoming."

He then reviewed his official visit to Iran where he met with 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Iranian revolution, and both the foreign minister and the deputy foreign minister. He said he found that the Iranians insist on liberating Palestine, which they consider their central cause. He said they expressed full readiness to support the intifadah, and that he discussed with the Iranian leadership ways to support the intifadah, adding that Iran has never before sent aid to the intifadah.

'Arafat Cables Condolences to Iran, Offers Aid

JN2306195690 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Brother Leader President Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a cable of condolences to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the devastating earthquake that hit Gilan Province and other areas in Northern Iran, and which have so far left 35,000 people dead and 100,000 wounded.

In the cable, brother leader President Abu-Ammar has voiced the PLO's willingness to offer all necessary aid.

Tunisia Deports Former Abu-Nidal Associate

NC2106112190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tunis, 21 Jun (MENA)—The Tunisian authorities recently deported 'Atif Abu-Bakr, who broke away from the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group.

Following his split with the Abu-Nidal group, Abu-Bakr issued several statements accusing Abu-Nidal of working for the Israeli Mosad and of plotting to assassinate Palestinian leaders in Tunisia and southern Lebanon.

The Tunisian weekly magazine HAQA'IQ reports that Abu-Bakr recently left Tunis for a "fraternal" state in the Arab Levant.

OPEC Affairs

Algeria's Boussena Arrives in Abu Dhabi

LD2206224390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1420 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, June 22 (KUNA)—Algerian Minister of Mining Sadeq Boussena Friday arrived here from Baghdad on the second leg of a Gulf tour targeting the implementation of OPEC's latest resolutions.

Boussena, who chairs Ministerial Council of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, is also scheduled to visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar as well as Iran.

Our sources told KUNA here today that Boussena's talks aim at holding consultations with oil ministers in the region in a bid to control the deteriorating oil prices in the world market.

Talks with his counterparts who from half of the cartel also comes in preparations for the organization's ministerial council which will be held July 25 in Geneva to

come out with a unified agreement to restore stability to the oil market, the sources said. [sentence as received]

OPEC's ceiling was set for 21.5 million barrels a day, but Boussena said in a press conference in Baghdad earlier today that the estimates indicate excesses in the member states' meeting. [sentence as received]

He told reporters that an emergency meeting is not necessary, stressing that OPEC is seriously seeking implementation of its resolutions.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Assails U.S. Decision on PLO

LD2406155290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Algerian Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated that the U.S. decision [to suspend dialogue with PLO] does not serve peace but constitutes another blatant encouragement to the Israeli party. The statement goes on to say: Algeria reaffirms its total solidarity with the Palestinian cause and urges the U.S. Administration to reconsider this decision, which could have the most serious consequences for the cause of peace. [passage omitted]

Premier Views Outcome of Elections

LD2306211690 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] At a news conference at Ibn Khaldoun Hall today, the head of government Mouloud Hamrouche said that the result of the elections was indicative of respect for the rules of democracy. He also said that the government is entrusted to continue the implementation of political and economic reforms until their objectives are achieved. Regarding the fate of the People's National Assembly, the head of government said that political and economic reforms are aimed at placing all the state constitutional bodies in safety from circumstantial and sudden changes. The head of government also said that the National Liberation Front must make the necessary conclusions from the first pluralist popular consultation, and must modernize its working method to adapt them to the prevailing climate and to set off again. The head of government denounced the external stands expressed through foreign media, which he regarded as interference in Algeria's internal affairs. Here are some extracts from the news conference:

[Begin Hamrouche recording] We affirm the continuation of the democratic process in an atmosphere of democracy, social peace, and stability for all the state's bodies and institutions. We affirm this because we believe that the state and the concept of the state are vital and important instruments of society to defend the national community, and as an instrument that takes responsibility for the aspirations of the national community and defends the joint destiny of all Algerians.

As for reforms; the objective desired from political reforms is to keep the state and its constitutional institutions at a distance from or away from circumstantial fluctuations and from circumstantial or sudden changes, and to make these institutions work within a clear framework, namely the Constitution, bearing in mind the differences between the specialities and authorities of the legislative, executive, and judiciary; that they complement each other regarding the objective and differ in their methods. This provides a great safeguard to the citizens' liberty and the legitimacy of their aspirations. [end recording]

Berriane Tense After Post-Electoral Clashes

LD2406205890 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The climate is still tense in the small town of Berriane, situated 40 kms north of Ghardaia. The security forces are positioned throughout the town following last night's incidents. The reason behind these incidents is the decision last night by the provincial judicial commission to reject the appeal lodged by the FLN [National Liberation Front] and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in which the two parties contested the majority victory obtained by the list of independents at the recent local elections. This then led to clashes. No one knows exactly whether it was the independents, the FIS, or the FLN activists who caused these incidents. However, one thing is certain: several people have been injured, and a number of privately owned shops and commercial premises have been set on fire. Are these acts of vandalism or are they controlled acts? The security forces were forced to intervene by firing tear gas to restore order. Until late this afternoon the situation had apparently not yet returned to normal. Let us listen to this testimony by an employee from the municipality of Berriane.

[Unidentified employee] The situation is slightly unstable, and we are afraid that problems might occur again tonight. I heard that a car coming from Ghardaia or somewhere else had its windshield shattered. There are still pockets of resistance here and there. That is all. I also heard that we will get reinforcements from the region of Biskra by tonight. It seems that the situation is worse than it was in Ghardaia in 1985.

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives for Nonaligned Meeting

JN2506071690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Algiers last night to take part in the third ministerial conference of the nonaligned Mediterranean littoral states which starts it meetings today, Monday.

On hand to receive the minister at Houari Boumedienne Airport were Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, a number of ranking officials at the Algerian Foreign Ministry, Syrian Ambassador in Algiers Dr. 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Dahhak, and the embassy staff.

Egypt

PLO Representative on Recent U.S. Statements

NC2306120890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine's alternate ambassador and Fatah's representative in Cairo, has warned against reports leaked by the U.S. Administration about an alleged confrontation with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. He says that the

object of such reports is to deceive the Arabs and absorb their wrath, caused by the suspension of the dialogue with the PLO.

In a statement to MENA, Al-Qidrah said that those who have been following U.S. statements and stands over the past two years will realize the dimensions of the U.S. game of deliberately making certain statements and then doing completely the opposite.

The Palestinian official said that if the U.S. Government is sincere, then it should call for an international peace conference to be held. He asserted that the PLO adheres to the Palestinian peace initiative, which disclosed the Israeli intransigence to world public opinion.

AL-AHRAM 'Denounces' U.S. Stand On Libya

NC2306083990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0607 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—In its editorial in today's edition, AL-AHRAM denounces the ambivalent U.S. stand on Libya.

Under the headline "Israel's Accusations to Libya and the U.S. Stand", the paper says the United States calls for the removal of chemical weapons, especially those in the possession of any Arab country, regarding them as a threat to stability and peace in the Middle East, and pressures major industrialized countries to prevent the transfer of their scientific expertise to Arab countries. At the same time, the paper adds, the United States does not move a hair's breadth to confront Israel on its nuclear program or its nuclear bombs, which are reported to exceed 200 medium-size bombs.

If the United States is seriously concerned about the presence of chemical weapons in the region, the paper notes, then it should be as concerned and serious about removal of Israel's nuclear arsenal. Perhaps if the United States adopts such a balanced position, the paper notes, the faltering peace efforts may actually make progress and some degree of stability may come about.

In conclusion, the paper points out that it has been the practice that, every now and then, Israel and its intelligence services level accusations at an Arab country and the U.S. Administration repeats what is uttered by Israel and its intelligence services. Even if Israel's stand can be justified as Israel seeks to inflame the region and create hotbeds of tension here and there to eclipse the sons of the courageous intifadah, the U.S. stand can not be justified.

Commentaries Urge U.S. To Reconsider Dialogue

Cairo Radio 23 Jun

NC2306140690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Will Washington Reconsider in Order To Protect the Peace Process?"]

[Text] The Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, begun in December 1988, was conducted within very narrow limits between Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador to Tunisia, and Palestinian Ambassador Hakam Bal'awi. It was restricted to the discussion of some formalities and never touched the substance of the Palestinian issue. Nevertheless, we believe that the continuation of these U.S.-Palestinian contacts reflects several important facts.

First, such a meeting is a direct method to exchange views and build mutual trust. This might later lead to an expansion of the scope of talks between the two sides, both in form and in content, and consequently promote the Middle East peace efforts.

Second, the dialogue constitutes a direct U.S. recognition of the PLO as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, which consequently cannot be disregarded in any future negotiations. This was clearly affirmed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday when he said: We realize that the PLO has an indispensable role in attaining any political peace settlement.

Third, the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is an important factor in encouraging the moderate trend within the PLO and barring the path of the hardline minority who cast doubt on the U.S. role's credibility in mediating between the Arabs and Israel.

The fourth point—an important one—is that continued dialogue between the PLO and Washington represented a success of the efforts which Egypt has been making for years to convince Washington that it is important to deal with the PLO as a logical prelude to persuading Israel and the Palestinians to negotiate together.

In light of the above, U.S. President Bush's decision two days ago to halt the dialogue with the PLO was bound to cause negative Arab and Palestinian reactions and similar ones by all peace-loving forces in the world.

Whatever the U.S. President's reasons for adopting this decision, we believe that Zionist pressure on the U.S. Administration was behind the decision, particularly since it came two days after the message Bush sent to Yitzhaq Shamir asking him to determine his final stand on the peace process without maneuvering and wasting time. Furthermore, Bush's decision followed James Baker's recent sharp criticism of Israel in which he stressed Washington's dismay and impatience with Israel's ploys.

Bush's decision to halt the dialogue with the PLO came a few days after the formation of Shamir's new government, which from the first moment rejected the Arab-Palestinian peace policy just as Israel had earlier rejected the Baker plan and Washington's efforts to find a peace settlement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Thus, it was not strange that Egypt should have acted quickly to protect the peace process from collapsing, to

forestall all adventurers in the region, and to ask Washington to reconsider its recent decision in order to emphasize the credibility of the constructive U.S. role in promoting peace. This was stressed by the Presidential Office's statement two days ago, which particularly referred to the negative effects that might result from the halting of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue and the freezing of the peace process.

It remains for us to ask Washington if, with this decision, it is punishing the PLO merely for an individual incident, why did it ignore the numerous massacres which Israel daily perpetrates against the Palestinians. Will Washington reconsider in order to protect the peace process from collapse?

Cairo Radio 22 Jun

NC2206143590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Mamduh Isma'il commentary: "The U.S. Decision and its Impact on the Peace March in the Region"]

[Text] An economic or political decisionmaker always considers causes, the parties concerned, timing, and, finally, objectives, when making a decision. If we examine these four elements in relation to the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO, we will discover the following facts:

First, as for the cause, the United States says that this was the PLO's failure to condemn a fedayeen operation carried out off the Israeli coast. However, Washington had earlier vetoed a UN Security Council decision to send a fact-finding committee to investigate the massacres which are being committed every day by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian territories. Moreover, an Israeli soldier had earlier carried out a massacre of Palestinian workers, killing seven. To this should be added the growing numbers of people who are being killed or injured every day in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Second, as for the party concerned with the U.S. decision, this is the PLO. We all recall that the U.S.-PLO dialogue which began in December 1988 was initiated after the PLO had recognized Israel and renounced terrorism. Though for 18 months that dialogue was restricted within narrow confines, it was a demonstration of U.S. seriousness in seeking to establish a direct dialogue between the PLO and Israel, prepare for a comprehensive settlement, and bring a just peace to the Middle East region.

Third, where timing is concerned, the suspension of the dialogue deals a painful blow to the peace march. The decision was made after the formation of an extremist Israeli government, the program of which gives priority to Jewish emigration, settlement in the occupied Arab territories, the suppression of the brave popular intifadah, and insistence on granting the Palestinian people autonomous rule which deprives them of the land.

Thus the U.S. Administration's decision increases Israeli extremism and defiance and puts the cart before the horse along the road to peace.

Fourth, concerning the desired objective of the U.S. decision, this raises a number of questions and doubts. The desire to please the pro-Israeli elements in the Congress and the United States must be seen as one objective. One also wonders whether the Arab-Israeli dispute is still a priority on the agenda of U.S. foreign policy, in view of the current regional and international changes.

Through an honest analysis of the elements which underlie the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with the PLO, the picture becomes clearer and the expected consequences are obvious. If the entire world has received the U.S. decision with regret and dissatisfaction, the Arab standpoint, as embodied in the statements issued by the Egyptian presidential office and the PLO, is that the U.S Adminstration's decision does not encourage the process of dialogue and negotiations which Israel is trying to evade. However, the Arab side declared its commitment to peace as a strategic line to be pursued at all levels.

Taking into account the successive developments in the region and abroad, we can see through events and their potential consequences. We can for example expect a continuous flow of Jewish immigration to Israel, at a time when Shamir's government is beating the drums of war and taking practical steps to establish a greater Israel.

Therefore, Arab leaders are required to act collectively in a manner which would restore the lost political balance with the powers which have influence on the Arab-Israeli dispute. The Arabs still have winning cards which can be played for that purpose. This will force decisionmakers to take Arab security and vital interests into account.

Mubarak Responds to Iranian Earthquake

Cable of Condolence

NC2206181290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has sent a cable of condolence to Iranian President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the deaths caused by the recent earthquake that struck the country two days ago and claimed scores of thousands of lives. Here is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I learned with distress and grief of the terrible earthquake that has struck your country and inflicted grave human and material losses on your homeland.

As we send our heartfelt condolences to you and to the families of the victims, we pray to God the Almighty to protect the fraternal Iranian people against misfortune and guide them to secure, safe, and stable coexistence and good

neighborliness with the other peoples of the region, away from the dangers of war, violence, and destruction.

Relief Shipments

NC2306185490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1754 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has decided to send urgent shipments of medicine and shelter materials to the friendly Iranian people to assist the victims of the violent earthquake which left thousands dead or homeless in northwestern Iran. The assistance is being offered within the framework of Egypt's desire to extend help to brothers and friends, especially in times of natural disaster.

General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, has issued orders for the prompt dispatch of a group of military transport aircraft to Iran to carry large quantities of medicine and relief equipment. Two such planes are currently being equipped to carry out these missions with the assistance of the concerned ministries. They are expected to leave Cairo for Tehran as soon as they ready.

Al-Asad Telephones Mubarak 23 Jun

NC2306200290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1954 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made a telephone call to President Husni Mubarak this evening. The two presidents exchanged views on the ongoing developments in the Middle East region as well as the current international situation.

Guinean Foreign Minister Arrives 24 Jun

NC2406063490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Jean Traore, Guinean minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo last night for a four-day visit to Egypt, during which President Mubarak will receive him.

He will also hold talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on current African issues, bilateral relations, and ways to promote them in various spheres.

In an arrival statement, he said he is bringing a message of friendship and faithfulness from the Guinean president to President Husni Mubarak. During his stay he will discuss ways to promote Egyptian-Guinean relations in various fields.

Libya

Forces on 'Extreme Alert' for Israeli Strike

LD2106185590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] High-ranking Libyan military sources have revealed that the Zionist enemy has moved three Air Force squadrons of Phantoms from its bases in Tel Aviv to U.S. bases in southern Europe.

Reports from the Libyan capital said that Libya has information to the effect that Israel intends to deal a blow against Libya and against the PLO bases in Tunis.

In this respect the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah has declared a state of extreme alert among its forces in order to repel any possible Zionist aggression to which it might be subjected.

'Plot Was Fully Unveiled'

LD2306104390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Jun (JANA)—JANA has learnt from Libyan security sources that the Israelis are planning to carry out an attack on Libya within the next 48 hours. The plot was fully unveiled, and if they carry it out they will pay a heavy price for it.

Al-Qadhdhafi Makes Statement to JANA on Liberia

LD2406150790 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution, in his capacity as leader of the international popular Islamic leadership, made a statement to the JANA news agency in which he explained that he has received assurances from the leader of the popular revolution in Liberia refuting the news about the treatment of Muslims in Liberia by the army of the popular revolution.

The brother leader of the revolution also received clarification that the forces of Samuel Doe, while retreating in the face of the blows of the popular revolution in Liberia, carried out massacres and destruction everywhere. Consequently, the forces of Samuel Doe are responsible for the acts against the Muslims in Liberia, while blaming the army of the popular revolution for these acts in order to discredit it.

The trustee of Arab nationalism stated that he had received assurances from the leader of the popular revolution in Liberia that the army of the popular revolution has provided protection for the Arab community in Liberia, thereby safeguarding its freedom. He affirmed that the popular revolutuion in Liberia does not differentiate between races and religions, and that Arabs and Muslims should rest assured. They should not be influenced by malicious propaganda and rumors being fanned by the Western news media and their agents in the area, who have been making a futile attempt to undermine the Liberian popular revolution.

JANA Asks U.S. Stand on Israeli Chemical Leak

LD2506100590 Tripoli JANA in English 0831 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, Jun 24, Jamahiriyah News Agency—Occupied Palestine witnessed within the last couple of

days a serious chemical leak from a chemical factory in Tel Aviv. The Zionist newspaper 'HADASHOT' confirmed the report without giving any details except that military helicopters were used to evacuate thousands of resdents who live near the area of the incident.

And after all this what can America say? America which mobilised its news media in association with the Zionist enemy to launch press campaigns against Great Jamahiryah for setting up a pharmaceutical factory claiming that it was chemical weapons plant despite repeated assertions by Great Jamahiriyah that the factory was for pharmaceutical production.

What can America say? America whose news media participated with western and Zionist media in deploring chemical weapons and talked a great deal for the need to renew the accords putting an end to chemical weapons claiming that would salvage humanity from this danger.

God exposed the Zionists before the whole world, which ignored the Zionists' possession of chemical weapons, by the explosion at the chemical factory inside occupied Arab Palestine and the appearance of a fatal cloud in the skies of occupied Palestine. America kept quiet about this scandal. Furthermore, the American news media imposed a blackout on the incident and did not comment on it. What is America going to say about this?

What will be the American [word indistinct] vis a vis the existence of the Zionist chemical factory which was exposed and the Zionist forces resorted to the use of air resources to evacuate thousands of the residents of the quarters of the incident... What is the American stance? That is what we are waiting to know. May be or waiting will be very long...

Chadian Charge Summoned Over Seized Trucks

LD2306224390 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, al Sayf [June] 23, Jamahiriya News Agency—The people's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison bureau and International Cooperation summoned the Chadian charge d'affaires informing him that the subject of the lorries seized by the Chadian forces 400 away from the Chadian borders and inside the Sudanese territory is still standing and that Great Jamahiriya reaffirmed its right to take delivery of those lorries as soon as possible.

Also, the the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau informed the Chadian charge d'affairs that the Chadian forces' seizure of a civilian commercial caravan on a road linking two independent countries—Great Jamahiriya and Sudan—constitutes a violation of sovereignty.

The People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation stressed to the Chadian charge d'affaires that any action taken or to be taken regarding the matter will not be complete without an all-out treatment of the issue and that the latter is considered standing as long as the lorries are not returned and drivers not compensated for the loss they had suffered.

Ugandan President Arrives on Visit 21 Jun

LD2206002490 Tripoli JANA in English 1631 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al Sayf [June] 21, (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to great Jamahiriyah.

Welcoming the Ugandan president was Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir. Also taking part in the welcoming ceremony were the secretary of the General People's Committee, members of the General People's Committee, a number of officers of the armed people, a number of ambassadors accredited to Great Jamahiriyah and the ambassador and members of the Embassy of Uganda to Great Jamahiriyah.

Accompanying the Ugandan president is Paulo Kwanka, the second deputy prime minister and the minister of foreign affairs of Uganda.

In a statement to JANA, the Ugandan president expressed happiness to visiting Great Jamahiriyah as it is an opportunity to visit and to consolidate the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD2206002690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1950 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] A working session was held this evening between the brother leader of the revolution and President Yowery Museveni, the president of the Republic of Uganda. The session was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Formation and Vocational Training and, on the Ugandan side, by Ugandan Foreign Minister Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere.

Departs 22 Jun

LD2206214990 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and the accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning after a visit to the Great Jamahiryah.

He was accorded an official send-off. Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir was at the head of those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Al-Bashir Message

LD2406142190 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received today Staff Brigadier Uthman Ahman Hasan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and chairman of the Political Committee of fraternal Sudan,

who conveyed to him a message from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, RCC chairman.

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Condolences to Iran Over Quake

LD2306090290 Tripoli JANA in English 0814 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, June 23, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The leader of the revolution sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to the president of the Repubic of Iran and to the Iranian people regarding the victims of the earthquake which hit a number of regions in northern Iran.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Turkish State Minister Celebi

TA2406175090 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that his country defends Turkey's views in the entire Arab world. He received State Minister Isin Celebi, who is in Tripoli for the 16th session of the joint Turkish-Libyan economic committee. The Libyan leader said that Turkish-Libyan friendship is based on stable foundations, and expressed his pleasure at the development of relations. Al-Qadhdhafi gave State Minister Celebi a message to President Turgut Ozal expressing his best wishes.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Pan-African Congress Leader

LD1906092390 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0839 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, June 19, JAMAHIRIYA News Agency—The leader of the revolution recieved yesterday Mr. Z. Motobinig, chairman of the Pan-African Congress, and his accompanying delegation currently on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriya.

Romanian Delegation Concludes Visit 20 Jun

LD2106133990 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Tripoli, 21 June, JAMAHIRIYA News Agency—Mr. S. Ayoniski, chairman of the coordination committee of the National Salvation Party in Romania and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli yesterday concluding their visit to Great al-Jamahiriya which lasted several days.

Commenting to JANA, Mr. Ayoniski expressed the happiness of himself and his accompanying delegation visiting Great al-Jamahiriya saying that this visit was necessary despite the conditions prevailing now in Romania because of the friendship Great al-Jamahiriya represented for Romanian people.

He stressed the importance of the relations of friendship and cooperation connecting the two countries and the need for promoting them for the benefit of the two friendly peoples.

Maghreb Union Engineers Conclude Tripoli Meeting

LD1906171390 Tripoli JANA in English 1434 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Al-Sayf [June] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In Tripoli yesterday, the Supreme Council of Arab Maghreb Union of engineering commissions concluded its session discussing over two days the items on the agenda including laying an emphasis on the important role to be assumed by this council in the engineering and technical (?ventures).

An agreement was reached on forming committees to lay down appropriate studies to achieve economic and technical integration in Arab Maghreb Union.

The participants ...so agreed on releasing a call called Tripoli Call stressing the keen desire on the part of the engineering commissions of this union to support the union and contribute in promoting it mobilising all the potentials in this regard.

An emphasis was laid on the preparedness to draw up a draft technical and engineering project to further the scientific achievements in the union to make successful the projects and plans of this union in the technical and engineering fields.

The participation of these projects and programmes of the engineering commissions in the union from the outset in the development plans is compatible with the scientific view held by the union.

Maltese Deputy Premier Lauds Friendly Relations

LD1906171190 Tripoli JANA in English 1425 GMT 19 Jun 90

[Text] Malta, Al-Sayf [June] 19, Jamahiriya News Agency—Mr. de Marco, vice-premier of Malta and foreign minister and justice [as received], has lauded the relations of friendship between his country and Great al-Jamahiriya which are based on mutual respect and fruitful cooperation.

He informed the Maltese Parliament that his country was keen on promoting its relations of cooperation and friendship with Great al-Jamahiriya to serve the common interests of both peoples.

Kuwait

Government Official on Dialogue Suspension

PM2206145290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Jun 90 p 4

[Unattributed: "Widespread Arab and International Reactions To Washington Decision To Suspend Dialogue With PLO"]

[Excerpts] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the dialogue with the PLO has prompted widespread Palestinian, Arab, and international responses. [passage omitted]

Kuwait yesterday expressed its dissatisfaction with the decision. A government official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Kuwait hopes that this position will not hamper peace plans in the region, especially because the PLO and Palestinian leaders—and, first and foremost, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat—have adopted specific and clear stances expressing the desire for peace of all Arabs, and not only the Palestinian people. This means a just peace based on the recovery of the occupied Arab territory and the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's demands with regard to their territory, full sovereignty, and legitimate rights.

The Kuwaiti official expects the Council of Ministers to issue an official statement at the end of its meetings the day after tomorrow to explain Kuwait's position on the subject. [passage omitted]

New Cabinet Members Received by Amir, Sworn In

LD2306105690 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Excerpt] His highness the amir received at 0900 [0600 GMT] the heir apparent and prime minister; deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and the ministers and they took the constitutional oath before him.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs, Dr. 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abdallah al'Awadi, stated that the amir this morning at al-Bayan Palace presided over the first meeting of the new cabinet after the end of the swearing in ceremonies. [passage omitted]

Paper Urges 'Serious' Stand Against U.S.

LD2506101290 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Kuwait, June 25 (KUNA)—Local daily Al-RA'Y AL-'AMM Monday called on the Arabs to adopt serious and objective stands against the U.S. which persists in a position hostile to the Arab causes.

In the front page editorial, the paper linked such U.S. attitude to the lack of a serious Arab stance against the Washington biased policy in the Middle East namely its unlimited support to the zionist entity.

The paper referred to the U.S. suspension of dialogue with the PLO and noted that in doing so it proved its biased policy against the Arabs.

The paper affirmed that the U.S. instead of maintaining fair play in the region, resorted to rally heavily behind Israel especially financing transport of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and at the same time threatening to end donations to UNRWA which helps Palestinian refugees.

In conclusion, the paper asked the Arabs to take a unified practical stance against the U.S. arrogance.

Saudi Arabia

'Great Concern' Expressed for Dialogue Suspension

LD2206220190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Riyadh 22 June—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its great concern over the decision made by the U.S. Government to stop the dialogue with the PLO.

This was announced by a responsible source in a statement made today, Friday, to SPA in which he said: We were surprised by the decision to stop the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue at a time when we were expecting that it would have successful results.

The source further said: The halt to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will encourage the Israeli authorities to continue practising their repressive measures against the sons of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and it will also prevent the continuation of the efforts exerted in order to ensure an overall and just peace in the Arab region.

The source said in conclusion: While expressing its great regret over the stopping of the dialogue, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Government urges the U.S. Government to reconsider its decision made public on this matter, and to pursue its efforts seeking negotiation and dialogue over settlement of conflicts.

ICO Regrets U.S. Decision

LD2406210790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Jeddah, 24 Jun (SPA)—The General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) has expressed its great regret over the U.S. Administration's decision to suspend its dialogue with the PLO.

In a statement released today, Sunday (24 June), by ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid, the ICO said: What causes regret is that the decision comes in the wake of repressive Israeli crimes against the Palestinian people being stepped up to hit the intifadah, and while the new Israeli Government, which is composed of extremist elements, is putting one obstacle after another in the path of peace and is openly waving threats of war against neighboring Arab countries.

The ICO General Secretariat believes that in view of the rising dangers in the region, and particularly in Palestine, it is imperative that anything which may be considered as support or encouragement to the intransigent and hostile policy pursued by the Israeli Government, in defiance of international law and the community, must be avoided.

The ICO secretary general urged the U.S. Government to reconsider its decision and resume its dialogue with the PLO immediately, in view of the international responsibility borne by the United States to maintain world peace and security. The ICO and all those who believe in peace regard the commencement and continuation of the dialogue between the PLO and the United States as a positive element in encouraging the process of peace in the region and in bringing closer a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Palestine issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Dr. Ghabid praised the stands adopted by the PLO and the efforts made through its peace initiative to push forward the peace process and to find a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Palestine issue and the conflict in the region.

Dr. Ghabid urged the UN member-countries and the United Nations to continue their support for the Palestinian peace initiative and the Palestinian people's intifadah until the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are achieved, especially their right to self-determination and to the establishment of their independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

King Fahd Sends Condolences to Rafsanjani

LD2306154390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Jun (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, has sent a cable of condolences to his excellency the Iranian president and here is the text:

Your Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I was deeply touched by the painful earthquake incident to which Iran was subjected. In the name of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in my name I send you and the families of the victims and the Islamic people of Iran my warmest condolences and consolations on this painful incident, beseeching God the almighty to have mercy on and show forgiveness toward the dead, and grant their families patience and comfort. Also I beseech God to speed up the recovery of the injured and spare the Islamic people of Iran all harm.

Please accept my regards,

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud

King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Quake Aid Offered

LD2206221890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2058 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] A reliable source made the following statement today to SPA:

We have followed with regret the reports carried by the Iranian news media concerning the results of the earthquakes that hit a number of Iranian towns and regions, resulting in thousands of victims from the sons of the Muslim people of Iran, dead and wounded, in addition to very serious material damage.

While expressing its regret over what happened, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia declares its preparedness to contribute to the extending of assistance to those who have suffered damage from this tragedy, a contribution on its part to alleviate the pain of the victims from among the sons of the Muslim Iranian people.

Interior Minister on Pilgrimage, Aid to Iran

LD2406195290 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The interior minister and chairman of the higher hajj committee, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, has announced that this year's hajj plan included new services through all the bodies concerned with serving the pilgrims. In this context his royal highness mentioned many tunnels, roads, and the extension of the Jamarat bridge. His royal highness said this at a news conference today, Sunday, in Mena following the conclusion of his inspection visit to Holy Mecca and the holy shrines to observe the government bodies' preparations for the hajj and the pilgrims. [passage omitted]

His royal highness the interior minister reaffirmed the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud's government's commitments to the full quotas allocated to pilgrims from all Islamic countries. In reply to a question on reports by foreign news agencies on a decrease in the number of Turkish pilgrims, falling short of the allocated quota, his royal highness the interior minister said there was absolutely no decrease in the number of pilgrims from any Islamic country. His royal highness explained that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a position, of which it has informed all Islamic countries, which concerns the publicized specified quotas. He added: If there are other matters or specific things, these do not concern the Kingdom. Perhaps the bodies concerned with this matter are more aware of the facts.

In reply to a question on the size of assistance that the Kingdom would extend to Iranian earthquake victims, His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud said: the Kingdom will give, God willing, as it always does under these circumstances, which we had hoped would not recur. His royal highness stressed that

the Kingdom's assistance to Iran would have a good effect, God willing. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud was asked if there were any Iranian pilgrims who had come from outside Iran. He replied: Some Iranian pilgrims have arrived. Their number is not large. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia welcomes pilgrims from anywhere. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Moscow Paper Interviews Ambassador to USSR

PM2206084990 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jun 90 p 3

[Interview with Dr Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Ilah, ambassador of the Yemen Republic to the Soviet Union, by S. Ivanov in Moscow: "Now We Are One"—no date specified; first paragraph is an introduction]

[Text] The ceremonial hoisting of the flag of United Yemen took place at the UN headquarters in New York 22 May 1990. Dr Ahmad 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Ilah, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Yemen Republic to the Soviet Union, has given his first interview to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent.

[Ivanov] Esteemed Ambassador, the event which has taken place in the southern Arabian Peninsula is undoubtedly a central one for that region: Two parts of a country divided since the 19th century have now united.

['Abd-al-Ilah] The adoption of the declaration on unity is regarded in Yemen as an historic event and the embodiment of the people's aspirations.

The actual split of Yemen, which led to the formation of two states in the north and the south, happened in 1839 when the British created a colony, the Aden Protectorate, in the south of the country. So a people, mentioned in history as far back as the second millennium BC, was divided. A people who, through their strategic position at the intersection of trade routes, played an important role in the Arab world, maintained ties with a whole series of countries in the east, and actively developed their own culture, science, and agriculture.

Thoughts of the country's unity became more or less realistic after two revolutions: in the north of the country in September 1962 and in the south in October 1963.

[Ivanov] For many long years the PDRY [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen] and the YAR [Yemen Arab Republic] adhered to different ideological concepts. Nevertheless, the Yemen Socialist Party [YSP] was one of the driving forces of the unification process. Does this mean that the YSP has abandoned its old guidelines?

['Abd-al-Ilah] No, the YSP has not renounced socialist ideas. It is a different matter that there has been a considerable broadening of the party's tasks, due to changes in the reality of our life.

The YSP began preparing in good time for work in conditions of the multiparty system. An accord on cooperation was reached between the YSP and the General People's Congress, and it is planned to create a united National Front which will include several Yemeni parties and political organizations.

[Ivanov] Two countries—two economic structures. Will fusion be a simple arithmetical addition: plant plus plant?

['Abd-al-Ilah] The state sector predominated in the economy of the south of the country, which also had cooperative agricultural associations and people's individual activity as well as mixed forms. There are similar economic structures in the north but the private sector predominated there.

We have already created a Ministry of Planning, which will elaborate the state's economic strategy. The country's economic capital will be Aden. A large proportion of the factories, duty-free enterprises, and tourist firms will be located there.

The Presidential Council and the government of the country will have to tackle a host of questions in the transitional period, which will last two-and-a-half years. The priority goals of our economy are to give people an opportunity to lead a normal life, to develop, and to show their abilities.

[Ivanov] The Soviet Union has traditionally had good relations with both parts of Yemen. We gave considerable economic aid and political support to your country. Will the changes that you spoke of not lead to a revision of our relations? AFP recently published a report from one of its correspondents on Soviet-Yemeni relations. The report says, among other things: South Yemen which, with its northern neighbor, forms the united Yemen Republic, has clearly distanced itself from the USSR, which was its ally for almost 25 years... What is your comment on that report?

['Abd-al-Ilah] We know about this AFP report. It is far from the truth. Our cooperation with the Soviet Union will develop.

Some people believe that the establishment of normal relations between Yemen and Western countries will mean a reduction of contacts with the Soviet Union. They do not take into account the fact that the world has changed and that relations today can be built not at someone's expense but together with everyone.

I should like to reemphasize that the Yemen Republic will honor all the commitments assumed by the North and the South and that all the treaties and agreements that have been signed will be honored by the Yemen Republic.

We have made use of the experience of transformations in your country. Now we are ready to share that with other countries. Our president said during a press conference in Baghdad, when a West German correspondent congratulated him on the unification of Yemen: We now have experience of unification and, if the need arises, we are ready to send you our experts.

Islamic Conference Issues Final Statement

JN1906080890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA)—The International Islamic Popular Conference for solidarity with Iraq has declared its full and effective support for Iraq and its mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn in his earnest efforts to possess the deterrent power.

In a final statement issued tonight after three days of meetings in Baghdad, the city of victory and peace, the conference called on all Muslims—states and peoples—to stand by Iraq in its courageous confrontation from a position of strength, ability, determination, and resolution against Jewish and Zionist plotting and all the enemies of the nation.

The final statement says it behooves all Muslims to use their resources and capabilities to confront any potential Zionist aggression against Iraq and to inform the Muslim masses about the importance of supporting steadfast Iraq in confronting the enemies of God. The statement also says that Iraq's wise leadership has declared its determination to deter the Zionist entity if it tries to attack Iraq or any other Arab country.

The ulema of the Islamic nation announced that they stand by mujahid President Saddam Husayn in his firm rejection of all Zionist threats and any tutelege or hegemony by any quarter whatsoever over the nation's destiny and sanctities as well as his assertion of the nation's right to possess the power that will deter any aggression.

The conferees expressed their belief that the Iraqis derive aid, support, and guidance from God Almighty and spiritual morale from the holy Koran. They said campaigns do not scare Iraqis, who are forging ahead, with God's help, along the path of achieving victory for this nation. They announced that the entire Islamic nation stands by them in their readiness for jihad in order to wrench holy Jerusalem from the filthy grip of the criminal Zionists.

The conference strongly denounced the savage campaign of misleading propaganda launched by imperialist circles in the United States and Britain and the hostile measures they have taken against Iraq in order to threaten it.

The statement says continuation with this unjust and hostile course means insistance on humilitating the nation and Muslims everywhere, which means that the nation must reply firmly by boycotting these circles politically, economically, and culturally.

The conference affirmed that the establishment of a strong scientific base and a deterrent force is a religious obligation for the Islamic nation and that failure to meet this obligation means failure to obey the orders of God Almighty. It said the heavenly task assumed by Iraq is an Islamic task which is supported by the ulema of the nation. The ulema called on the Islamic nation to support and stand by Iraq against anyone who tries take away the nation's right to assume this task and to condemn him.

The members of the conference declared their readiness for jihad with their life and property. They also called on the Islamic nation to make every sacrifice for the sake of God if Iraq is exposed to a treacherous Zionist or imperialist aggression in abidance by God's words: Fight in the cause of God those who fight you. [Koranic verse]

The members of the conference expressed their full support for the Baghdad extraordinary Arab summit resolutions, which expressed Arab solidarity and closed Arab ranks behind Iraq against Zionist, U.S., and British threats and declared Arab abidance by the Arab League charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact and Iraq's right to secure and defend its national security.

It was decided to observe the last Friday of the month of Dhi al-Hijjah [approximately 20 July] as a great Islamic day of solidarity with Iraq in its confrontation with the imperialist- Zionist aggressive threat.

The conference called on the Ministries of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in the Islamic countries to devote Friday sermons on that day to enlightening Muslims and emphasizing the need to support Iraq's stand on the basis of Islamic unity.

The conferees appealed to all Islamic centers, societies, unions, and fora inside and outside the Islamic world to mark this day by holding rallies and seminars to highlight this danger and Iraq's role in confronting it. •

The conferees hailed the valiant Palestinian intifadah in which all Palestinian men, women, and children are participating. They affirmed that this great intifadah has provided further evidence that this nation can, with its intrinsic capabilities, fight the enemies regardless of their unparalleled ferocity. Hence, the conferees call upon all Muslims—states, peoples, and organizations—to continue to support the intifadah by all means to help it achieve its objectives of liberating the lands, establishing the Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem, and extricating the blessed al-Aqsa mosque from the filth of the criminal Zionists and Jews.

The conferees reiterated that the resolutions passed by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity constitute a flagrant infringement on Islam, Muslims, and Islamic holy sites. They urge all Muslims everywhere—rulers and peoples—to boycott every country that espouses such an unjust position. They also urge all Muslims to work seriously and to exploit their resources and capabilities to liberate holy Jerusalem from the hands of Zionists, enemies of Islam and Muslims.

The conferees warned against the massive emigration of Soviet and non-Soviet Jews to Palestine, citing the grave dangers posed by such a development. They said that

this emigration encroaches on the Palestinian people's rights to a homeland and a national identity. They urged the confronting of this meticulous and carefully-planned international conspiracy, which seeks to evict Palestinians from their lands and to expropriate their property and lands to allow Jewish immigrants to replace them with a view to establishing the so-called "Greater Israel" at the expense of Arab states. The conferees indicated that this unjust and premeditated emigration campaign led by the United States and involving all enemies of Islam is a malicious plan designed to gather the Jewish diaspora and mobilize them against the nation in an attempt to usurp its lands, desecrate its holy sites, and tyrannize Muslims.

The conferees warned the international community against this evil sedition being led by the Americans who are providing the Jews with military capabilities, financial assistance, and political support to help gather the Jewish diaspora so that their crime against the Islamic nation can be consummated. They asked Muslims—countries and peoples—to reassess their ties with other nations in light of these nation's positions toward this emigration which is encroaching on the Islamic nation's rights.

The conferees welcomed Iraq's peace initiatives, the latest of which took the form of a message sent by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to the Iranian leadership. They said that this message was welcomed and well-received. The conferees hope that efforts to hold a meeting between the leaderships of the two countries will be expedited to draw up the basis for a common understanding of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the 8 August 1988 agreement, considering that this resolution is a plan for a comprehensive peace envisaging the establishment of a just and durable peace on the basis of good neighborliness, noninterference in internal affairs, and Islamic injunctions.

To honor Islamic shari'a rules and provisions of the international law on prisoners of war [POW's], the conferees called for expediting the exchange of POW's between the two Islamic countries within the context of eagerness to safeguard the rights of POW's, which are cherished in Islamic shari'a and the international law, and also in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the Third Geneva Convention of 1949, which call for repatriating POW's once hosilities are halted. Hostilities here were halted in accordance with the cease-fire which went into effect on 20 August 1988, the conferees added.

The conferees asserted that the POW issue is a humanitarian issue dealt with in the Islamic shari'a. They added that it should not be linked to the overall conflict. They said that this is necessary to end the agony of tens of thousands of POW's detained in both countries as well as the suffering of hundreds of thousands of these POW's relatives. The reference here is to the family and religious problems caused by the continued detention of POW's, the conferees said. Moreover, the immediate exchange of POW's would be a step toward creating a climate conducive to the attainment of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace between the two Islamic countries, the conferees added.

The conference urged the Islamic nation to assume its Islamic responsibilities by calling for the immediate release of POW's without delay.

The statement says that, at a time when the nation is facing challenges which require readiness and vigilance, Muslims should not ignore attempts by subversive movements and trends alien to Islam to distort the bases of Islam, over issues such as the full revelation of the Koran, the binding nature of the Prophet's sunna, that Muhammad is the last of the prophets, and the justice of the Prophet's companions. The conference warned against the danger these movements pose to the stability of the Islamic communities religiously, ideologically, and politically. The conferees believe that one of the most important means of confronting these evil and rancorous anti-Arab trends is to fortify the masses of the nation ideologically through spreading the true teachings of Islam, adhering to these teachings, and enlightening the masses to the evil objectives of these misled trends that seek to harm Islam.

The conference called on the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministries, Islamic universities, official and popular Islamic call organs, ulema, intellectuals, and leaders of Islamic action to agree on a unified practical plan to confront this danger through mosque sermons, lectures, seminars, and conferences, and through preparing studies and writing books to expose these evils and explain the true teachings of Islam that are based on the Koran and the Prophet's sunna.

The conference expressed high appreciation of President Saddam Husayn's efforts to entrench the teachings of Islam in Iraq under his wise leadership through the faithful preparation of the deterrent power, the establishment of Islamic cultural institutions such as the Saddam University for Islamic Sciences, his continuous support for this university, and his order to build and take care of religious schools. The conferees believe that these blessed steps that reinforce the spirit of faith and jihad, have undoubtedly been among the major factors of Iraq's victory and steadfastness in all fields. This spirit will be, God willing, the decisive factor of the victory God promised His faithful servants. O ye who believe! If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verses]

The conference decided to send cables to the U.S. Congress, President Bush, and the British prime minister to protest and condemn their hostile stands against the Arab and Islamic nations, their alliance with the usurper Zionist entity, and their support for it to continue its aggression against the Islamic nation and its sanctities, and to tell them that their stands conflict with justice, human rights, and the international charters and norms.

The conference called on the Awqaf Ministries, the Islamic societies, organizations, and centers, and the leaders of

Islamic action everywhere to work seriously and persistently to publish these resolutions, to convey them to the nation, and to support Iraq by all available means.

Ministry Source Denies Amnesty Report on Kurds

JN2106191690 Baghdad INA in English 1801 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Baghdad, June 21, INA—An Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information source stressed that happiness and glory enjoyed by the Iraqi people and especially the Kurds are a glowing example that backfired all bettings of those plotting against it.

This came in the course of a statement made by the source to INA on the reports by Amnesty International organization today which alleged that hundreds of Kurds had disappeared in Iraq and other numbers of them were executed following their return to Iraq.

The Information Ministry source added that Kurdish citizens who returned to their families, relatives and lands after benefiting from President Saddam Husayn's generous gesture were receiving the required human treatment they deserve so that they could contribute with the sons of Iraq in carrying on the laying down of the pillars o progress and development in the shade of victory, security and peace.

The source further added that the Kurdistan governorates of the autonomy rule witness development in the economic and social fields.

The source further said that all these falsifications, which we quite well know their source and also their evil intentions, could not deceive anyone and are part of ill wishes that find no response from good people in the world who utterly reject them.

Concluding, the source said that sons of Iraq and Kurds in particular raise the banner of Iraq in allegiance of President Saddam Husayn and strenuously work for building and defending the soil, mountains and waters of Iraq.

Jordan's Husayn Meets With Saddam, Departs

JN2106193790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn arrived in Baghdad at noon today on a visit to the country. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn led the welcoming party at the airport. [passage omitted]

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his brother His Majesty King Husayn then held a round of official talks to discuss Arab and international developments as well as the close bilateral ties. On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by members of the Revolutionary Command Council Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister. Also present were Latif Nussayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Husayn Kamil, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by the delegation accompanying his majesty.

President Saddam Husayn later gave a luncheon for His Majesty King Husayn and his delegation.

His Majesty King Husayn left Baghdad this evening, ending a visit of several hours. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Coast 'Sabotage Attempt' Foiled 24 Jun

Air, Sea, Land Units Involved

JN2406061190 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] A sabotage attempt was foiled last night off the coast of southern Lebanon, which led to the destruction of a speedboat and the killing of at least two saboteurs who were on board, without any of our side being harmed.

The IDF spokesman said a Dabur coastal patrol craft belonging to the Navy, which was carrying out routine checks in southern Ra's al-Bayyadah, 10 kilometers to the south of Rosh Haniqra, destroyed and sank the sabotage speedboat which was on its way to carry out a sabotage attempt in the south of the country.

Air, sea, and land units took part in foiling this sabotage attempt. Up to now, no sabotage organization has claimed responsibility for this attempt.

This incident occurred less than a month after Abu-al-'Abbas' organization carried out a sabotage attempt off the Israeli coast on 30 May.

Two 'Terrorists' Killed

TA2406044590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The Israeli Navy has foiled another terrorist attempt to attack Israeli targets from the sea. Two terrorists were killed. There were no Israeli casualties. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

This latest terrorist attack from the sea ended near Ra's al-Bayyadah, about five km north of the Israel-Lebanese border point at Rosh Haniqra. The terrorist boat was speeding down the Lebanese coast towards Israel when it was spotted. Land, sea, and air forces were put on alert as a Navy Dvora boat, on routine patrol in the area, moved to intercept the terrorist craft.

According to Navy sources, at least two terrorists were seen on the boat, which was moving quickly through the water at a speed of some 30 knots. A Navy Dvora, which has a higher speed, soon closed in. It was about 0930 PM [1830 GMT]. As the Dvora approached, the terrorists opened fire, shooting rocket-propelled grenades and using automatic weapons. Sailors manning machine guns and the 20 mm cannon on board the Dvora immediately returned fire, sinking the terrorists boat and the men on board. There were no Israeli casualties, and no damage to the Dvora.

Israel Navy Commander, Rear Admiral Mikha Ram, said his men had performed excellently. The Dvora and its crew maintained their patrol throughout the night, and a thorough review of the successful operation will begin when they return to port this morning. Last night's encounter came three weeks after the 30 May attack by a terrorist squad from the Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] Palestine Liberation Front to hit the Tel Aviv shoreline. It is not known which terrorist organization launched last night's failed effort from Lebanon.

Curfew Imposed After 'Hundreds' Riot in Silwan

TA2206162990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] A curfew was placed on the village of Silwan in East Jerusalem this evening following serious rioting. Our correspondent reports that the decision to impose a curfew was made by Deputy Commander Arye Bibi of the Jerusalem District Police in order to allow Border Police personnel to operate in the village.

Border policemen can now be seen, from an observation point overlooking the village, advancing through the alleys using many smoke grenades.

The incident began about three hours ago when hundreds of masked individuals attacked a Border Police jeep with iron bars and rocks. When they got within threatening distance the policemen opened fire, using live ammunition as well. A 17-year-old youth was consequently killed. His body was taken to al-Maqasid Hospital, but it was snatched away by his relatives. Following the incident, hundreds of villagers marched in a procession carrying PLO and black flags. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 22 June adds: "Our correspondent has learned that there were other casualties, including a border policeman who was hit in the back by a rock. Deputy Commander Bibi and the commander of the Northern Command have given their approval to keeping the curfew in effect for three days. A few minutes ago Bibi told our correspondent that, to the best of his knowledge, nobody was hurt during the border police operation in the village."]

Four Injured by Bomb on 'En Gedi Beach

TA2306111690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Four vacationers were injured on 'En Gedi's beach [on the Dead Sea] as a result of the explosion of a bomb placed in a garbage can. The four apparently sustained medium to slight injuries. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that two of the injured are tourists and two are Israelis. They are being treated at the 'En Gedi clinic.

Report of Plan To Attack Libya Denied

TA2306113290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Libya is expecting an Israeli attack within 48 hours. The Libyan news agency issued this announcement this morning, and the reaction to this in Jerusalem amounted to a single word: nonsense.

REUTER has noted that over the last few days the Libyan news agency has issued several announcements on an expected Israeli attack.

Arens Outlines New Policy, Enacts Portions

Approves Security Measures

TA2306184890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has ordered the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to beef up its troops along the main roads in Judaea and Samaria used by Jewish inhabitants. The minister also ordered the establishment of a civil guard in Ari'el and in Qiryat Arba'. Our military affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky is in the studio to report initial details about Arens' plan to improve security along the roads:

After yesterday's meeting of the territories forum, the chief of staff, his deputy, the chief of the Planning Branch, and the coordinator of activities in the territories met in the defense minister's office. The chief of staff briefed the minister on data gathered in a study conducted by the IDF; subsequently, Minister Arens ordered a series of actions.

Jewish inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria will be allowed to establish a civil guard, but only in settlements where there are police stations. The civil guard's activity will be limited to the confines of the settlement. Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had opposed such a move.

Another measure ordered is the augmentation of IDF troops along the main roads used by Jewish-owned vehicles between Jerusalem and Ramallah, Jerusalem and Hebron, and al-'Ayzariyah and Ma'ale Adumim. It was also decided to pave bypass routes and illuminate some of the roads. The improvements will be effected along the trans-Samaria road; also, roads bypassing the al-Duhayshah and al-'Arrub refugee camps will be paved, as will others. It should be emphasized on this point that the Housing and Construction Ministry will be asked to finance about 80 percent of the cost of the roads and illumination. The Defense Ministry will also help provide protective gear for vehicles of Jewish inhabitants driving in the territories.

This is an initial and preliminary list of measures. When Arens assumed his position two weeks ago he stated that security on the roads and of Jewish inhabitants would be given top priority.

Plan for Settlers' Security

TA2106120590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jun 90 p A1

[Report by military affairs correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has instructed the IDF's [Israel Defense Force] General Staff to swiftly prepare a comprehensive regional defense plan for all the Jewish settlements in the territories. These are the defense minister's first instructions to the General Staff since assuming office. The military commands have begun to prepare themselves for the implementation of these orders.

Sources in the defense establishment reported that this directive cancels the policy adopted by the former defense minister [Yitzhaq Rabin], who cut the budget allocated for maintaining the security of the Jewish settlements in the territories. The sources further added that Arens' intention is to enhance the level of safety of the settlers in the territories, and bring it up to the level enjoyed by the Jewish settlements along the northern border.

The major demand submitted by the settlers' leadership is that the IDF increase patrols around the settlements, and add slots for additional guards, the cost of which will be borne by the IDF.

Former Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin cut back on guard duty hours and on the number of reserve soldiers sent for guard duty at Jewish settlements in the territories.

Sources in the defense establishment pointed out that the guard roster at many settlements in the territories is insufficient, and that now they will undoubtedly enjoy a higher level of security. The defense establishment is examining a number of options: Setting up fences around the settlements; adding lighting; improving the roads according access to the settlements; larger manpower rosters; the securing of the main traffic arteries, mainly by the IDF, and through the maintenance of a more continuous contact with the Jewish settlers in the territories.

As is known, the defense minister visited the Jewish settlements in the territories last week and promised he would work to upgrade the security of Jewish settlers. Official military sources said yesterday that, in conjunction with the implementation of the General Staff plan in the settlements, the IDF must gear itself for new instructions from the defense minister on all issues connected to the intifadah, such as the widening of roads, the construction of bypass roads, and immediate action against stone-throwing children—which is the major problem in the territories today.

Discusses Return of POW's

TA2106140990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said today that Israel is making every effort to bring our POW's in Lebanon back home. Replying to a question by our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz, the defense minister said: We will do eveything to locate them and bring them to Israel.

Minister Arens toured Lebanon today and also said that Shiites belonging to Hizballah and Fatah terrorists are cooperating outside the security zone. He said the IDF [Isarel Defense Force] is well prepared to face that danger.

Reportage on Shamir's Upcoming Response to Baker

To Sidestep Question

TA2306182990 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will send his response to President Bush either tomorrow or the day after, the gist of which will be adherence to the outgoing government's peace initiative. The prime minister will sidestep James Baker's question with regard to the Cairo talks, the question which led to the disbanding of the outgoing government.

Our correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that Shamir will propose ways to resume the peace initiative, without setting an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo and without discussing the participation of deportees or inhabitants of East Jerusalem. The prime minister will propose to hold elections in the territories on the basis of the Camp David accords and the autonomy plan.

The response to President Bush will be drafted in coordination with Foreign Minister David Levi, who perused the draft response in his hospital room. The foreign minister's physicians will decide tomorrow when to discharge him from the hospital.

Further Details on Letter

TA2406061990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Those involved in drafting Shamir's letter to Bush, besides the prime minister and the foreign minister—who received all the relevant material in his hospital room—are other ministers close to Shamir and Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

What the letter will not contain is obvious: It will not contain a proposal for a new political initiative or an affirmative response to Baker's questions on the composition of the Palestinian delegation: no deportees and no East Jerusalem Arabs.

It will doubtless contain a commitment to the government's peace initiative of 14 May 1989, with emphasis placed on the need for peace with all the Arab states. That is the second point in the peace initiative, which is being given added emphasis since the Alignment joined the ranks of the opposition. The United States will be asked to help in this objective. Mr. Shamir will express his appreciation for President Bush's decision, at the recommendation of Secretary of State Baker, to suspend the dialogue with the PLO in Tunis. Mr. Shamir hopes that dialogue with the terrorist organization will never be renewed.

Other positions which might be brought up in the letter: Israel is now concentrating on absorbing aliyah from the USSR; it does not have a policy of directing immigrants to the territories; and new settlements—an issue which angers Bush and Baker—are not currently on the agenda. The current motto in Jerusalem is: Meetings with representatives of the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in order to find an acceptable solution. But that does not necessarily mean a meeting in Cairo, although the risk that Israel would be speaking there with two voices disappeared months ago. We must, however, stress that the letter to Bush is still an uncompleted draft.

Jerusalem TV Reports

JN2406092690 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor has learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has prepared a reply to the message he received from U.S. President George Bush two weeks ago. Our correspondent says the reply message affirms Israel's commitment to its peace initiative and invites the United States to help promote the peace efforts in accordance with the four original principles of the Israeli intiative which include the endeavor to end the state of hostility between the Arab states and Israel and the resolution of the refugee problem.

Our correspondent points out that the Israeli reply avoids adopting or rejecting the U.S. proposals concerning the inclusion of inhabitants from East Jerusalem or deportees in the Palestinian delegation for dialogue with Israel. The Israeli formula calls for the inclusion of members from the inhabitants of the areas in the Palestinian delegation. The reply message also notes the need to coordinate stands between Washington and Jerusalem.

Commentary Says U.S. Must Explain Objectives

TA2206115090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Jun 90 p E4

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Baker Was Personally Offended"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem tried this week to find out the reason for U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's crude assault on the Israeli Government. The shock was great because it is unusual for a new government and a new foreign minister to be sharply attacked by a friendly foreign minister even before a congratulatory letter wishing them success is dispatched.

It seems that Baker was seriously and personally offended. He was uneasy about Cabinet Secretary Eliyaqim Rubinstein's surprise visit to Washington (following a visit initiated by the Anti-Defamation League). The impression was given after Rubinstein's talks with a U.S. official that he had tried to "pull" the administration away from the Baker formula while explaining the political difficulties Prime Minister Shamir is facing.

But that is not what offended him personally. Baker was hurt, the sources say, because the government did not address him and try to convince him that progress in the

peace process might be made via different means. Instead, ministers suddenly started saying things which could be understood to mean "we can also manage without Washington" (that was the impression from Minister Dan Meridor's remarks), and that Baker's question's "are irrelevant" (as Minister Roni Milo said). It is possible that he became suspicious that Israel plans to squeeze out of the peace initiative altogether.

It is difficult to evaluate the real weight of the "personal offense" as the reason for the additional souring in relations between Washington and Jerusalem. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem described it as "a crisis in personal relations" and not necessarily as one between the two countries. The cable Baker later sent to his counterpart David Levi was termed "warm." Baker expresses the hope that they will be able to work **together** and **together** consider how to advance the peace process while maintaining close ties between us while giving special attention to Israel's security considerations. There is an impression that the U.S. secretary of state is prepared to give credit to his new counterpart, who in his letter of response stressed "the continuation of our attachment to the government's political plan" and "our readiness to discuss with the U.S. Administration ways to implement our peace plan."

It is difficult to know what clarifications the Washington administration expects to receive from the new government in Israel, which said in its basic guidelines that East Jerusalem Arabs cannot be included in the process linked to the peace initiative—either by appointment or elections. This principle is one of the two components of the Baker formula. The second is the proposal to include "deportees" in the Palestinian delegation, which the government also rejects because it views this as PLO penetration into the peace process. When President Bush announced the suspension of the talks with the PLO he left an opening for the renewal of the dialogue.

Logically, there is no point in rushing ahead to invite the prime minister or the foreign minister to Washington. If the intention is to reach practical understandings, it would be better if the "clarifications" process between Washington and Jerusalem begins from a distance. A visit which is not prepared in detail might do more harm than good in view of the sensitive and unstable relations between the two countries.

But it is not just Israel that must provide clarifications. Washington must also do this. Baker said in Congress that Israel is responsible for putting up obstacles to peace. He said that at a time when the White House and the State Department already knew the administration would have to suspend the PLO dialogue. The administration's hesitations to cut off the dialogue with the PLO derived from the Bush-Baker administration's concept that "no progress can be made without the PLO." That also means, however, that an accord cannot be achieved without the implementation of the PLO's aim, which is the establishment of a Palestinian state in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Shim'on Peres said a few days ago in a conversation with Knesset members that he still supports a "functional solution," that is, the division of functions between Israel and Jordan. He believes that Jordan has not given up its role and that at some stage in the process it will be returned. If that is "the final aim" Peres is aspiring to, then even that does not correspond to the Bush-Baker concept, which calls for giving full political rights to the Palestinians. If Washington is prepared to make do with "a functional solution," which is but another version of the "autonomy" idea, does it believe that the PLO will agree to it? Why then charge that "Israel is putting up obstacles to peace"?

Signals to Jordan by the prime minister could be observed this week. There is no doubt that these signals were not coincidental. They were made with the anticipation that Washington would be forced to suspend the dialogue with the PLO and that Israel would then be asked: What is going to happen now? Shamir's remarks were aimed at stressing that there is a joint Israeli-Jordanian interest, since neither want an independent Palestinian state under the PLO leadership. A renewed consideration of that option can be taken into account only if Washington completely stops its dialogue with the PLO.

Even if Secretary of State Baker had reason to be offended, that is still no reason to mix issues relating to a country's very survival up with a statesman's personal feelings. President Bush, for example, did not give too much consideration to Israel's sensibilities and ruled that the settlement of Jews in East Jerusalem is the same as settlement on the West Bank. That is also reason to be "personally" offended.

It seems that, while Israel has provided clarification to Washington, it must be made clear where the Bush-Baker administration plans to lead the process with the PLO.

The attempt to "hold up" the invitations to Yitzhaq Shamir and David Levi to visit Washington until they come up with suitable clarifications will not harm them personally, but it might damage the sincerity of Washington's intentions.

West Bank, Gaza Notables on Dialogue Suspension

JN2306125890 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Reaction in the West Bank and Gaza to the U.S. suspension of talks with the PLO have been characterized by indifference and disappointment. Dr. Hatim Abu-Ghazalah told our correspondent, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Zahidah, that the Palestinian side was not actually expecting any results from this dialogue and that the loser from this suspension will be the United States itself. Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, dean of Gaza physicians, said that by suspending the dialogue, the United States sought to force the Palestinians to make more concessions. He wished the PLO had been the first to take such a step. Former Hebron Mayor Engineer Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah said the U.S. decision will not change the Palestinian peace strategy as drawn up by the [Palestine]

National Council in Algiers. He added that this strategy is not aimed at satisfying the United States, but at paving the way for the realization of peace and justice in the region. As'ad al-Saftawi from Gaza described the decision as hasty and biased toward Israel. He called for suspending West Bank and Gaza contacts with all U.S. envoys visiting the region. Sa'id Kan'an, from Nabulus, said this decision is irresponsible and a blow to the peace efforts, but will, on the other hand, put the Israeli Government to the test in confronting the new political reality.

Soviet Immigrants Not To Settle in Territories

Shamir Letter to Gorbachev

TA2506063090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir sent a letter to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev several weeks ago, right after the Bush-Gorbachev summit. The letter was meant to clarify that Israel is not settling immigrants in the territories. The letter stated that the Israeli Government has no policy of directing immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan points out that the letter was sent after Gorbachev, speaking in Washington, warned that if the settlement of Soviet immigrants in the territories continues, he may reconsider the issue of immigration permits.

Green Line Settlement Boundary

TA2406155390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Report by Sarit Mikha'eli]

[Excerpts] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is also the head of the Cabinet for Aliyah, today presented the problems faced by the country in immigrant absorption and the measures he is suggesting to resolve them. We will have to go through a difficult period in housing conditions and employment, he said, but achievements are impossible in a climate of bungled opportunity. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the Jewish Agency assembly in Jerusalem, Minister Sharon added that, due to the special sensitivity of the issue, there would be no policy of directing immigrants beyond the Green Line. Israel has a policy of settling immigrants in the Galilee, central Israel, the Negev, and the Wadi 'Ara area.

[Begin Sharon recording] Our efforts to settle immigrants are focused on this side of the Green Line. Everyone is well aware of the difficulties and problems that exist. This does not mean that other people cannot settle anywhere. Housing starts are being carried out according to government policy: in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. As for immigrants, because of the problems we face—which I have already stated—they will not be settled beyond the Green Line. [end recording]

In conclusion, Sharon promised two things: There will be no modern-day shantytowns, and all solutions formulated will also be valid for young couples and army veterans.

Dinitz Provides Data

TA2506111390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz today announced that 65,000 immigrants have arrived in Israel since last April, 50,000 of them from the USSR. Addressing the Jewish Agency assembly in Jerusalem, Dinitz said only 215 immigrants have settled in the territories. Steve Linde has details:

[Begin recording] [Linde] Since last April, the beginning of the current fiscal year, the Jewish Agency chairman said, only 0.2 percent of the total number of immigrants—0.6 percent of Soviet immigrants—have moved to the territories. He called Arab allegations that immigrants are being settled in the territories a big lie.

[Dinitz] It is a cover up; it is a ploy; it is a bogey to hide their real objection, which is aimed at the very fact that Israel absorbs immigrants, that immigrants are going to Israel. The Arabs know, some of them, that immigration is the oxygen of Israel, and some of them, unfortunately, still want to deprive Israel of this oxygen.

[Linde] Dinitz also welcomed recent statements made by government ministers that immigrants are not being directed to the territories.

[Dinitz] I want to say, from this rostrum, that I welcome very much the statements that we heard in the last 24 hours from the leaders of the Israel Government—and not the most dovish leaders of the Israel Government—who said to us that not only is it not the policy of the Israel Government to send the immigrants to the territories of the West Bank, to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, but that the Israel Government will not send the immigrants to these areas in order not to give a pretext to the Russian Government and to any other government to hold sanctions against this precious immigration that we are absorbing in Israel, and I think this deserves our acknowledgment.

[Linde] Dinitz gave monthly figures of this year to demonstrate the rise in immigration: in January, 4,800 immigrants arrived; February, 5,700; March, 7,000; April, 10,800; May, 10,300; and so far in June, 7,000, with more than 11,000 expected. [end recording]

Peretz Reports Hungary Contacts

TA2206111690 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 22 Jun 90 p 1

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[Excerpts] At the conclusion of his visit to Budapest yesterday, Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz reported that he had agreed with aliyah elements there that

representatives from his office will be posted at Budapest's central transit station for Soviet Jewish emigrants in a bid to shorten initial absorption procedures. The Jewish Agency, which is in charge of the Budapest station, has denied the report.

Upon his return from Hungary yesterday, Minister Peretz told a news conference that while immigrants are in Hungary, Absorption Ministry officials will begin the initial absorption process. He also said that planes transporting immigrants from Budapest will also carry computer diskettes with the specifics of the immigrants, thereby significantly shortening the initial registration and absorption process at Ben-Gurion Airport. [passage omitted]

Minister Peretz said yesterday that, in his meeting with the Hungarian interior minister, he was briefed about the heavy pressure exerted on the Hungarian Government by Arab and other countries not to allow the passage of immigrants through its territory. The Hungarian minister added that the immigrants' transit through Hungary has placed a heavy financial and security burden on Hungary.

The absorption minister made clear to his hosts that Israel does not have a policy of settling immigrants in the territories and asked that this message be relayed to the Soviet Government.

During his visit to Budapest, Minister Peretz examined the absorption procedures and the possibility of cutting the immigrants' stay, which is currently one to two days, to the minimum possible. He also said that he has managed to arrange for kosher food to be supplied to the immigrants at the transit station.

UN Envoy Aime Arrives for Tour of Territories

TA2206045790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Jean-Claude Aime, the special envoy of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, has arrived in Israel. Aime said at Ben-Gurion International Airport that he was here to discuss the situation in the territories. He declined to answer further questions.

Aime was greeted by UN officials, an Israeli Army major, and David Kimche, the former director general of the Foreign Ministry, who is a personal friend.

A Foreign Ministry official said Aime would officially start his visit on Monday, when he is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister David Levi and Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office. He will hold talks with Defense Minister Moshe Arens and military officials on Tuesday.

Arens Calls for Arab Involvement in Peace Process

TA2206192490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Elimelekh Ram in the Tel Aviv studio 22 June—live or recorded]

[Text] [Ram] Mr. Arens, former U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis argues that Israel actually is on the verge of a crisis with the United States, and that it should initiate or put forth a new peace plan. Does the Israeli Government share this feeling?

[Arens] I appreciate former Ambassador Lewis, who is probably very knowledgeable, but I do not agree that we are on the verge of a crisis. I think people do not reflect on the firmness and steadfastness of Israeli-U.S. relations, which were expressed once again this week when the United States decided to suspend its dialogue with the PLO. This had been one of the points of tension between Israel and the United States since the dialogue began one and a half years ago. We differed on the issue, and this affected the positions of both Israel and the United States with regard to the entire peace process. We argued that the PLO was an obstacle to the peace process, while the Americans said the dialogue was important and that the PLO's agreement was necessary. The United States made a decision which is not only compatible with our position, but which is also based on shared viewpoints and values; namely, that there is no talking to terrorists.

[Ram] Nevertheless, in the wake of the attempted terror attack on Israel's shores on Shavuot, the secretary of state made his well-known statement about the White House's telephone number. I suppose you were not very pleased to hear that.

[Arens] I am not saying that there are no longer any differences of opinion. Differences remain and will yet crop up, I have no doubt. Nevertheless, I think our relations are firm and I do not foresee a crisis. Of course, each one of us wants to advance the peace process. Once again, for the hundredth time, I can only say that nobody need preach to us or urge us, we are interested in peace in this region more than anybody else, notwithstanding our appreciation for the U.S. interest in a peace process in the region.

[Ram] Let us then go back to the suspension of the U.S.-PLO talks. In your opinion, does this U.S. move herald the beginning of a new political momentum and initiative on the part of Israel?

[Arens] I think it does away with one of the obstacles, which is not the sole obstacle. I think it is agreed by everybody in Israel—I hope it is also the case in the United States—that the advancement of the peace process calls not only for progress toward an accord with the Palestinian population, but also for progress toward the normalization of relations between Israel and the Arab countries.

As far as the Arab countries are concerned, there has been no progress whatsoever, and I think nobody will dare say that it is Israel's fault, that Israel does nothing, that Israel is not sufficiently flexible. Saddam Husayn does not want peace with Israel; it is as simple as that.

[Ram] If that is so, what about the Palestinian problem?

[Arens] I would like to reiterate that, in my opinion, the two issues should go hand in hand. I am not saying this as an ultimatum, we need not state that there will be no progress on the Palestinian issue as long as Saddam Husayn does not stop his pronouncements.

To the point, I think it is inconceivable that anything should be achieved on the Palestinian issue if no simultaneous achievement is made with regard to the Arab world—and this is up to the Arab world.

As for the Palestinian population: The Israeli peace initiative is on the table, and the current government is committed to it. Elections by the Palestinian population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District is one of the four points in the initiative. We remain committed to this point. In my opinion, this is a far-reaching proposal. As you know, there are some Israelis who think it is too far-reaching, but we are committed to it and we will take action to carry it out.

Levi Rejects Offer To Meet 'Central PLO Figure'

TA2406105090 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 24 Jun 90 p 3

[Report by Qasim Zayyad]

[Text] David Levi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has rejected an offer to meet a central PLO figure in a West European country. The offer was made by an Israeli Arab public figure who visited Minister David Levi last weekend in the 'Afula hospital where he is currently recovering from an illness.

The minister rejected the offer outright, stating that the timing is not right. In the conversation, Levi half mockingly said that it is possible we might not have a choice and we will meet the PLO in order to reach an agreement with the Palestinians.

Minister Levi's sons waited for the man at the entrance to the wing where he is hospitalized and, after the private meeting, escorted him out.

The 'AL HAMISHMAR correspondent has learned that the Arab figure suggested that Minister Levi use his influence in the government to prevent it from adopting a policy of collective punishment and prolonged curfews as is demanded by the agriculture minister.

He suggested to Levi that the new government release Palestinian leaders from prisons as a good-will gesture and launch unofficial contacts with Palestinian leaders in the territories, including those identified with the PLO.

Shamir Searching for 'Moderate' Palestinians

TA2506152590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] The United States is looking for an excuse to renew the dialogue with the PLO, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today. Israel will continue to search for partners for negotiations among the moderate Palestinian leadership in the territories. Moshe Hakohen reporters:

Some 45,000 immigrants from the USSR arrived in Israel in the past six months. The wave will grow in the coming six months, and the USSR will not block it, the prime minister predicted. Mr. Shamir's remarks that Israel will not divert immigrants to the territories was even backed by Deputy Minister [and Knesset Member] Ge'ula Kohen. Only Knesset Member [MK] Rehav'am Ze'evi spoiled the idyllic picture when he said that whoever makes such declarations knows they are incorrect. The immigrants will be directed to the territories, he said.

Referring to the political situation, the prime minister said he believes that the United States is looking for a formal excuse to renew its dialogue with the PLO. That is because it believes that in order to maintain the peace process there is a need for contacts, even if indirect, with that organization. Israel, on the other hand, will try to find moderate interlocutors from the territories, who in contrast to the PLO, do not view a Palestinian state as their objective, but at the first stage will make do with autonomy. The prime minister is prepared to meet with such moderates even in Cairo.

[Begin Shamir recording] But I say that before going to such a meeting we must find out exactly what it will deal with, what the conditions are, and who will be there. These are issues for negotiations. [end recording]

Tempers were heated when MK Ge'ula Kohen put forward an original proposal on how to solve the problem of fields in Jewish settlements being burned.

[Begin Kohen recording] If the person who sets the fire is found he will be deported. If, however, he is not found, but footprints are discovered leading to an Arab village, then this village must be forewarned that if it is proven that the perpetrators came from there, then the entire village with all its inhabitants will be transferred to another location until the end of the harvest, where it will not be able to do any harm. [end recording]

This minor transfer proposal, as it is being called by the leftist representatives in the committee, caused a big storm. Yosi Sarid responds:

[Begin Sarid recording] The day that order is given to the Army, I fear it will also be the end of the Army. [end recording]

Peres Prepared To Leave Labor Leadership

TA2306092190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0705 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Raz] Are you, the Labor Party, not supplying ammunition to your opponents, the Likud and right-wing parties, as a result of this internal competition between Yitzhaq Rabin and yourself?

[Peres] Definitely so. I very much regret it. It is unprecedented that two and half years before the general elections we are engaged in a struggle within the party rather than dedicating ourselves to a struggle against the Likud. Some party members may have reached the conclusion that it is more popular to struggle against Shim'on Peres than against the Likud. This is harmful, and I regret it, of course. I cannot, however, take to my heels and run when somebody does this. No such thing.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, are you still the boss of your party?

[Peres] A party does not have a master. The master of a party is the majority of members, not a single individual. It is unacceptable to me to have a boss or a commander for the party. I am the party's representative. I was legally elected, not subversively, in one election campaign after another. I went through the most difficult situations in the party. When I competed for the party leadership in 1977 there was no other candidate. In 1988 too, when the Finance Ministry had to be manned, no one but me volunteered to do so. I did that and worked, and so I do not get worked up over every attempt to make gains from a difficult situation, as is the case today.

[Raz] Still, in the past it was customary to think that the Labor Party Central Committee was your fortress. Now, though, Yitzhaq Rabin wants to bring the decision on leadership to the Central Committee on the assumption that matters have changed there as well.

[Peres] I do not know what Yitzhaq Rabin wants. The Central Committee will make a decision, and we will see the results.

[Raz] What may lead you to consider the possibility of quitting this entire game?

[Peres] If I think that, first of all, there is an alternative way to peace to which someone else can lead us. The existing alternative way [Rabin] is not leading to a process of peace, in my opinion. Second, if I see that there is a young candidate who can indeed lead the party in the future. At this stage, I do not see Yitzhaq Rabin as having either of these two qualifications.

[Raz] How about others? Is there anybody in the Labor Party gallery of members whom you may view as your, or possibly Yitzhaq Rabin's, successor, a man to lead the party after you two?

[Peres] I assume there are others, but they should dare. In a democratic party, unlike a kingdom, successors are not appointed. In a democratic party, the person who believes he can lead the party should rise and announce his intention to compete. If such a person exists and is indeed suitable for the position, I shall definitely support him. I am not holding onto the leadership for my life. I simply think that what is proposed now is bad for the party, bad for peace, and bad for the norms of public life, since I do not believe we will reach peace if we go with the Likud. [passage omitted]

Officials Meet With Jordanians on Hajj Returnees

JN2206110090 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] The Jordanian authorities have fixed 8 and 9 July as the date for the return of Israeli Muslim pilgrims to the country across the Allenby Bridge, instead of the four days agreed on earlier.

Our correspondent, 'Umar Zaydani, says the civil administration in Judaea and Samaria was informed of this yesterday during a meeting between Jordanian and Israeli authorities on the Allenby Bridge.

Government Responds to Iranian Earthquake

Condolence Cable

JN2306121190 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Mudar Badran, sent a cable to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressing profound grief at the loss of life caused by the devastating earthquake that hit northwest Iran.

Mr. Badran also told the House of Representatives today that the Jordanian Government has issued instructions to dispatch a medical mission and a planeload of medicines to Iran to help alleviate the affliction of the victims of the earthquake.

The House of Representatives also decided to send a cable to the speaker of the Iranian parliament expressing condolences regarding the victims of the earthquake. [passage omitted]

Medical Supplies

JN2406162490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Amman, 24 Jun (PETRA)—On the instructions of His Majesty King Husayn, two planes loaded with medicine and medical equipment left Amman today to contribute to relief efforts to aid victims of the earthquake that struck several areas in northwestern Iran leaving tens of thousands killed and making hundreds of thousands homeless.

The cargo of the two planes consists of medical supplies and relief requirements such as bandages, pain relievers, antipyretics, intravenous solutions, and first aid products provided by the Ministry of Health and Jordanian [pharmaceutical] plants.

AL-RA'Y Claims U.S. Policy Seeks Hegemony

JN2306102690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 23 Jun 90 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Reaction Is Not Enough"]

[Text] If the Arabs remain as they are now—calling for Arab reaction after every U.S. challenge—their performance will not go beyond echoing the frequent and endless U.S. challenges. An echo in itself is not enough to liberate the land and holy places or to maintain the existence and future of Arab generations, which are now being threatened more than ever before.

Yes, we clearly say that reactions and echoes, no matter how strong they are, do not lead to salvation. What leads to salvation is commitment to a unified pan-Arab strategy that is based on facts and deals with them bravely. The leading fact is that the United States does not want an Arab awakening, that the United States is interested in exhausting Arab power completely, and that the United States seeks to subjugate the Arab nation under joint U.S.-Israeli hegemony. If the Arabs are committed to a strategy that resists these dangers and seeks to defend the Arab will, restore the land and holy places, and maintain their existence and the future of the next generations, then hostile challenges will recede all by themselves and the Arabs will then be able to determine their destinies.

Thus, it is no longer acceptable that the Arabs continue to view matters incorrectly, such as, for example, to believe that the United States is interested in establishing peace in the region, but Israel fails to respond to this interest. The fact is that the United States has no such inclination and that, on the contrary, the United States is committed to a joint strategy with Israel to impose capitulation on the region. Nor is it acceptable that the Arabs continue to hold the wrong view that U.S. Administrations still need to investigate facts, or that it is possible to convince them to change their practices through meetings with them to present evidence on the justness of their cause. Washington is fully aware of the facts and evidence about the justness of the Arab cause, but it wants something else; it wants to impose its hegemony on the Arabs, subjugate them, and render them powerless. The Arabs must abandon the dream produced by impotence about the possibility that the U.S. Administration will assume a just stance if they understand what their thoughts are. The Arabs have spent decades hoping for justice to come from others. It is high time they realized that it is their power that makes others act justly and enables them to regain their rights and maintain their will.

Yes, it is futile to run after a mirage or to waste time appealing to Washington or appeasing it. The U.S. Administration knows well what it wants, and it is persistently working to implement its objectives. The Arabs must defend themselves. To begin with, they must reject the terms that burdened them and portrayed impotence as rationality and firmness as recklessness and extremism. It is no gain at all if Washington gives this or that Arab party a certificate of rationality. Nor is it a disadvantage for this or that Arab side if Washington describes it as reckless and extremist. The United States is not a God to whom mankind must succumb, and life is not its property. We the Arabs must restore our self-confidence and build our strength by our arms. Arab leaders must realize that our masses feel the danger and find it extremely unjustifiable for leaders to disagree among themselves or to have lukewarm relations. There is no time to waste on appeasement and reconciliation. All leaders must join hands for joint pan-Arab action to implement a pan-Arab strategy based on an awareness of the facts, headed by the fact that Washington's aggressive goals in the region must be aborted to save the nation from them.

Palestinians, Israelis Clash Off Tyre Coast

Damage Cited

NC2406050890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] According to reports from the south, a clash occurred between a boat carrying fedayeen group and Israeli occupation forces off the Tyre-al-Naqurah coast shortly after midnight. The occupation forces bombarded Tyre and its port. Israeli helicopters were used in the clash. A number of houses were hit and the port sustained material damage.

[Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0345 GMT on 24 June reports the following: "Palestinian gunmen in two boats clashed with Israeli forces in the south shortly before midnight. Israeli helicopters were used in the fighting."]

'Dawn Forces' Claim Attack

NC2406113790 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] The Dawn Forces [Quwwat al-Fajr] of the Islamic resistance has issued a statement announcing that the martyr Jamal al-Habbal naval group, which belongs to the Dawn Forces, yesterday evening clashed with a number of Israeli gunboats in an area between Ra's al-Bayyadah and Ra's al-Naqurah as the group was attempting to cross into occupied Palestine.

The statement said that an enemy boat was shelled, which prompted the enemy to dispatch naval and air reinforcements and to fire flares.

The statement announced that two resistance men were martyred and that the rest of the group members returned safely.

'Awn Proposes 'Objective' Revision of Al-Ta'if

NC2206145590 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Commenting on the French activities led by Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has stated: I do not know and have not yet been told what answers Mr. Scheer received in Damascus. However, I do know that Syria has a key role to play in resolving the Lebanese crisis.

Regarding the proposals that Scheer conveyed to Damascus, Gen. 'Awn told AL-DIYAR newspaper that there are several proposals, but for our part, we have one basic [word indistinct]. We are ready to sacrifice the form, but we want the substance to be good and appropriate. He added: So far, the substance is contradictory. It fails to respect certain basic matters regarding the exercise of power and the balance between the legislative and executive authorities and falls short of performing its duty of overseeing the exercise of power.

Gen. 'Awn proposed an objective revision [of the al-Ta'if accord] free of any partisan perspective and on the basis that we are one homogenous people. Through this revision, we will find out that a balance between the legislative and executive authorities is lacking in some articles of the al-Ta'if accord, making it look like an upside down pyramid, he said.

While insisting on the need to amend certain articles of the al- Ta'if accord, Gen. 'Awn stated there is an imbalance that needs to be set right, with emphasis on the substance. We are ready to sacrifice the form, he said. But if some parties view al-Ta'if as something heavensent, then there will no longer be any room for agreement, he asserted.

Gen. 'Awn was asked what his posiiton would be if the answer to the proposals were no. He said: I will wait for a third and a fourth initiative.

Cited by France's Scheer

NC2406063090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] In Paris, Francois Scheer, French Foreign Ministry secretary general, said that General 'Awn does not demand that the al-Ta'if accord be amended. Rather, 'Awn demands that the provisions and implementation of the accord be reconsidered, Scheer added. Scheer went on to say that Gen. 'Awn expressed readiness to hold talks with the legitimate authorities.

Scheer stressed that neither Syria nor France should interfere in the dialogue which should be conducted between the Lebanese legitimate authorities and those who wish to join the al-Ta'if accord.

Asked about the Vatican and French initiatives, Scheer said that the two run parallel but there is no coordination between them.

Al-Hirawi on Amendment Attempts

JN2406124190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Doha, 24 Jun (WAKH)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has reiterated his government's adherence to the al-Ta'if accord and warned of the danger posed by some attempts to thwart the national reconciliation document endorsed by the representatives of the Lebanese people in al-Ta'if.

In an interview published in the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH today, President al-Hirawi accused those who made the decision to start the war and engage in clashes, of involvement in these attempts and schemes.

The Lebanese president called on the Arab states to help Lebanon rebuild what has been damaged by the war and to contribute to the international aid fund launched for this purpose. He added that the revival of a dynamic Lebanon is contingent upon two basic factors; namely,

halting the current bloodshed and clashes and the realization by all parties that the desire for peace must overcome the desire for tyranny and destruction.

Regarding the problem of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and its effect on the continuation of the Lebanese crisis, President al-Hirawi said: The best way to confront this problem lies first in halting the bloodshed in East Beirut and extending legitimate authority there, and then in building a strong and unified Lebanese Army that would enjoy Arab and world support—an army that would be built with a view to putting pressure on Israel to make it withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The Lebanese president termed his tour, which has taken him to Egypt, Tunisia, and Libya, as very positive. He added that it will largely benefit Lebanon and the Lebanese people and help resolve its current crisis.

Al-Hirawi said that his current Arabian Gulf tour is another step toward bolstering Lebanon's Arab ties.

Junblatt Cables Condolences to Iranian Leader

NC2206123490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt has sent a cable of condolence to Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i, guide of the Islamic revolution in Iran, on the victims of the earthquake that struck Gilan and Zanjan Provinces in the Iranian Republic. In the cable, sent in his name and on behalf of the PSP, Junblatt expresses condolences and profound sympathy to the Muslim leaders, the Iranian people, and all the Muslims, on the painful calamity that has befallen thousands of innocent Muslims.

Hizballah Members To Donate Tithe to Iranians

NC2506075590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The dreadful earthquake which hit northern Iran is still the focus of attention. Hizballah held a memorial service in the Imam al-Mahdi Mosque in al-Ghubayrah yesterday for the victims of the quake. [passage omitted]

His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim delivered a speech on behalf of Hizballah, in which he declared a three-day mourning in Lebanon as of Monday [25 June]. He called on Lebanese Muslims to give support and assistance to the Muslim Iranian people. His eminence added: We reiterate solidarity with the oppressed people in Muslim Iran and wish to express loyalty to our brothers who have given us every assistance. Shaykh Qasim said: In solidarity with the oppressed people in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hizballah will donate 10 percent of the salary of every full member in the party in support of the afflicted areas. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Radio Welcomes Dialogue Suspension

NC2206094690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Political Commentary: "Suspension of the Dialogue"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Some people think that U.S. President George Bush's decision to suspend the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is regrettable. We believe just the opposite. Suspension of the dialogue is good news, and we have waited a long time for it. We say this not to spite Yasir 'Arafat but out of pity and mercy for the flesh and blood of the Palestinian cause sacrificed on the alters of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. This is good news because it will stop the process of attrition for the Palestinian cause and because the dialogue was not originally held to serve this cause but to exhaust and liquidate it. The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is directly responsible for the current schism in the Palestinian political leadership. The dialogue was a manacle that shackled the hands of the official Palestinian establishment. Did not 'Arafat and his group attack all revolutionary, nationalist, and Muslim Palestinians for the sake of maintaining the dialogue? Did not 'Arafat recognize Israel and renounce armed struggle just to lure Washington to the dialogue?

The sessions of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue held in Tunis between Bal'awi and Pelletreau were a heavy legacy weighing down the Palestinian cause and all those loyal to it. Now that the dialogue has been suspended until further notice, we thank God for this boon which fell on us because of our enemies' intransigence. The suspension of the dialogue is an important lesson and example. We hope that 'Arafat will benefit from this lesson and remember the advice given to him not to start this dialogue. It is important for 'Arafat to realize that the dialogue was not beneficial but was a fatal political and historical mistake in the history of the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

It was Washington that decided to start the dialogue and it was Washington that decided to suspend it. The Arabs, Muslims, and Palestinians can ask: What was the role of the PLO in this dialogue? What did 'Arafat offer in this dialogue, and how did the Palestinian issue benefit from the dialogue? Nothing, except perhaps the possibility that we can boast to the world that we talked with a superpower, with an archdevil, and with an archenemy. Was 'Arafat trying to prove his political and diplomatic dexterity through his dialogue with Washington?

While reading the decision to suspend the dialogue, George Bush did not deny 'Arafat's contribution. He said that 'Arafat was the only Palestinian to recognize Israel and renounce terrorism or armed struggle. However, what is the value of this talk? Did Bush want to delight Arab emotions by praising 'Arafat, knowing that the Arabs are more emotional than they are pragmatist. If 'Arafat needs this Bush testimony when writing his memoirs, maybe he will enter history. However, what history is this? It is the history which Washington is

trying to write on the basis that this era is the U.S. and Zionist era. On our part, we stress that this era is also the era of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. Whoever lives in the era of the Khomeyni renaissance should not be afraid of U.S. arrogance.

Al-Huss Calls for Changes in Government

NC2106122990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss today expressed the hope that there will be changes in the government soon as part of the moves to find a decisive solution to the current crisis. Such changes would strengthen the accord and peace march that started in al-Ta'if.

Answering a question regarding the situation in which the government now finds itself in light of the violent campaigns which are being waged against it, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The government's position is no longer tenable amid the campaigns to which it is being subjected, even from within. We believe that changes should take place regardless of whether a solution to the crisis is imminent. If a solution is imminent, as we hope, then the changes should be within the framework of this solution.

At any rate, changes in the government are necessary because there is a dire need to form a new government which will undertake to attempt to achieve what the current government has failed to achieve despite all its efforts to use existing resources to confront the problems of the current stage and its humanitarian, social, and economic tragedies. We are among those who believe a solution is imminent. We are confident that the energetic moves we are now witnessing on the domestic, Arab, and international levels will definitely lead to a solution which will end the state of rebellion and division in the country, unify the institutions, and enable the legitimate government to impose its authority throughout Lebanon on the basis of the national accord document.

From the government's position of national responsibility, which it maintains despite all the hardships and injustice to which it is being subjected, we assert that the current government would not have stayed in office for one hour had it not been for the cherished hope of an imminent solution which could result from the current auspicious efforts. We must be careful not to take an uncalculated step which could be a new factor that would further complicate the crisis.

TISHRIN Dismisses Shamir Negotiation Call

JN2306101590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jun (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has said that Shamir's recent statements on peace are deceptive and misleading and designed to invert the truth to make Israel appear as a peaceful state that is being threatened, while in fact it is an entity for war and aggression.

In a commentary today, the paper says that Shamir depicts the Palestinians as terrorists and rioters. It says the Israeli prime minister believes that he can deceive the world public. However, Israel's racist, aggressive policies have become known and exposed to the entire world. This is so to the extent that the statements of its leaders about peace have been ignored by the U.S. Administration. Moreover, the Israelis themselves tagged the Shamir government as the government of extremism and war.

Dismissing Shamir's peace allegations and his invitation to Arab leaders to begin negotiations, the paper says: These allegations are ridiculous inasmuch as peace has its known principles, headed by the recognition the Palestinian people's rights, especially the right to self-determination, as well as withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

However, Shamir rejects all Palestinian rights and even rejects the existence of the Palestinian people themselves. His intentions have been exposed by the map distributed among Soviet Jewish immigrants in which Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are described as areas temporarily inhabited by an Arab majority.

The word temporarily exposes Israel's intention to commit fresh massacres with the aim of expelling the Arabs and Judaizing their territories, and then establish a Greater Israel, a notion that has been warned against by U.S. Secretary of State Baker, who urged the Israeli leaders not to think of it. Hence their rejection of the Baker plan.

The paper states that Shamir's objectives concentrate on annihilating the Palestinian people, launching a wide-scale settlement campaign in the occupied territories, holding separate negotiations with Arab countries, and even rejecting the plans of Washington itself despite its bias for Israel.

Concluding, the paper says Shamir does not want peace and his statements deceive no one. The paper adds that when Baker gave Shamir the White House phone number and asked him to call if he really wanted peace, he was voicing the U.S. Administration's disappointment with Israel's policy.

Terms Jordan Call 'Deceptive'

JN2406091990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0725 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jun (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has analyzed the Israeli prime minister's stand toward the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question and his repeated calls on the Arab leaders to hold talks with him.

In a comment today, the paper refers to the call, this time addressed to Jordan, describing it as a deceptive call. The paper adds: Shamir's call to normalize relations with Jordan is meant to induce Jordan to abandon its role toward the Palestine question and to bless the Zionists' schemes to suppress the revolution of the occupied territories, and to expel its people in order to displace them with the Jewish emigres.

The enemy's prime minister, TISHRIN adds, considers any Arab support for the Palestinian cause unnatural. He can only see the four million Palestinians as four million terrorists. He even orders his criminal forces to kill unweaned babies, considering each one of them a future terrorist. This is in addition to other criminal practices such as demolishing houses, wiping out villages, burning agricultural land and orchards, poisoning wells, imposing a blockade on foodstuffs and medical supplies, and other practices which Shamir deems natural. What is unnatural, according to Shamir, is the Palestinian people's demand to have their freedom and the Arabs' support for the struggle of this people.

The paper adds: Peace is not a word to be uttered; it is a responsible action which has its factors and conditions represented in safeguarding the freedom of peoples, their dignity and rights. As for the peace Shamir is seeking, it is represented in sentencing four million Palestinians to death and homelessness, and seizing and Judaizing their lands. Shamir wants the Arabs to condone his crimes and establish normal relations with him.

TISHRIN asserts that Shamir does not want peace, but only aggression and expansion. This is because the Arabs have supported peace efforts on the bassis of UN and Security Council resolutions and accepted an end to the state of war with Israel in exchange for the restoration of the 1967-occupied territories, while Israel rejected these efforts and resolutions because it deems the occupied Arab territories liberated lands and part of its Torah dream.

In conclusion, the paper says: The Arabs are not afraid of the threats of Israel and its hawks. Injustice might gain the upper hand for some time; however, there will be a time when the cause of justice will prevail. The Arab nation will possess all the elements of victory when its efforts are pooled toward the cause of justice.

Minister Salman Receives Soviet Press Delegation

JN2406203390 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman received this morning a delegation of the USSR Union of Journalists led by (Ingo Gogev), secretary of the union. The delegation comprises Smirnov, deputy chief editor of the socialist (OSTIA) newspaper, and (Dawruv), chief editor of the

communist newspaper (AL-RAYAH). Dr. Sabir Falhut, head of the journalists union, attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the talks concerned cooperation ties between the Syrian Journalists Union and the USSR Union of Journalists and ways to develop them in the interest of relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries, Syria and the USSR.

U.S. Said Helping To Establish Greater Israel

JN2506071090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 25 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline America and Greater Israel, AL-BA'TH newspaper comments: Despite the clarity of the Soviet stand concerning Soviet Jewish emigration, the U.S. Administration is bent on making the Soviet Union enact a law on the emigration of Jews.

AL-BA'TH adds: When the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States met in Berlin, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker once again brought up the topic of emigration with his Soviet counterpart Shevardnadze. Baker once again linked referral for Congressional approval of the economic agreement concluded in Washington between Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev to the Supreme Soviet Council's approval of the law on Soviet Jewish emigration.

AL-BA'TH continues: We believe that this is enough to prove that the U.S. Administration is more excited than Israel itself about the emigration of Jews to occupied Palestine, because linking its interests as a superpower with another superpower over the Jewish emigration issue definitely forms a dangerous precedent in international relations.

The paper affirms that it is known that the Arabs have done a great deal and enough so that the United States will adopt a reasonable policy toward the Arab-Zionist conflict. The Arabs used all means at their disposal to realize this objective; so much so that some of them made concessions that were not within the U.S. calculations to begin with. Despite all that, the United States did nothing except what was required by world Zionism and Israel; nay, concerning the subject of Soviet Jewish emigration, the U.S. Administration has used all forms of political, economic, and other methods to realize the Zionist dream. Therefore, the United States is participating directly in setting up what world Zionism seeks to establish—Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Al-Shar' Departs for Tehran To Express Sympathy

Government To Extend Aid

JN2206132590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Damascus for Tehran at noon today to convey on behalf of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Arab people, their heartfelt condolences to Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the friendly Iranian people over the victims of the earthquake calamity which has befallen Iran and also to express Syria's sympathies with Iran on this saddening occasion.

In an urgent move to aid the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Government has decided to send to Iran a planeload of medical and first aid products weighing 11 tonnes, as well as a team of Syrian physicians of various specialties led by the assistant health minister. Besides, the government also decided to dispatch quantities of foodstuffs and clothing to aid the friendly Iranian people, stand by them in their ordeal, and also to contribute to saving the victims, treating the injured, and facing the painful calamity caused by the earthquake, which hit the whole northern and western parts of the Iranian highlands.

Medical Aid Arrives in Iran

JN2406072690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus from Tehran last night at the end of a visit during which he conveyed the condolences of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian leadership, and the Syrian people to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian leadership, and the friendly Iranian people over the victims of the earthquake which hit northern and western regions of Iran.

In a related development, the Syrian plane carrying medical aid to Iran arrived in Tehran yesterday evening. The aid consists of medicines as well as 15 tonnes of surgical and first aid equipment. Assistant Health Minister Dr. Mustafa al-Ba'th arrived aboard the same plane, heading a medical team to help treat those injured in the violent earthquake.

The Syrian plane was received by several Iranian officials, Syrian ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan, and Embassy staff. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Phones Mubarak on Bilateral Issues

JN2306203390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Jun 90

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad today called up His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss issues of bilateral concern and regional developments.

Iran

Domestic, International Relief Efforts Continue

'Any Foreign Assistance' Welcome

LD2406164490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] A Foreign Ministry statement has denied reports by certain news agencies that Iran does not allow foreign relief teams to enter the country to help in the rescue operations in the quake-ravaged areas. The statement reflects Tehran's view that because of the extraordinary magnitude of damage caused by Thursday's quake, Iran welcomes any foreign assistance including the dispatch of medical aid relief teams.

France's Civil Defense Organisation has sent their 205-member relief team to Iran to help in rescuing the quake victims and to provide medical aid to the injured. The French team has brought 18 search dogs along with 35 tonnes of equipment.

A 15-member medical team has also arrived in Tehran from the Soviet Republic of Nakhichevan to help in the relief efforts for the quake victims. A group of Soviet experts in earthquake engineering are accompanying the team. The fourth Soviet medical team, consisting of 75 doctors and nurses, arrived in Tehran on Saturday.

Foreign aid continues to come in for the quake-stricken northern areas. Speaking to reporters at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, General Bani-Adam, chief of the headquarters for unloading the foreign planes carrying aid for the quake victims, said: Three French planes, three Soviet planes and six Turkish flights have airlifted aid to Tehran; Greece, Britain, Bulgaria, North Korea, Qatar, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Syria, Dubai, Poland, Pakistan, Italy, Oman, Egypt, Holland, Libya, Switzerland, Belgium, East and West Germany, and Angola have each dispatched a plane load of aid to Iran; and Abu Dhabi is sending 26 flights twice a day [as heard]. He said that 48 flights have landed at Mehrabad Airport so far. The official added that the aid will be transported to the quake-stricken region by Iranian Air Force planes and army helicopters.

Besharati on Foreign Assistance

LD2406182990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Up to now 86 countries have declared their readiness to despatch aid and relief teams to the earthquake victims of the Provinces of Gilan and Zanjan. Mr. Besharati, deputy foreign minister, who has gone to the quake-stricken regions, said in an interview with IRNA: Some of these countries have already sent aid directly to Iran, and the flood of relief and medical aid from abroad is continuing. He said: The despatch of foreign help from some countries is taking place free from political issues and explicitly as humanitarian help. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran accepts assistance from all foreign countries except Israel and South Africa.

While dismissing rumors that physicians from foreign countries would not be deployed, the deputy foreign minister said: From the start of this painful event, Iran declared that it would welcome specialized forces and relief and medical aid; and right now hundreds of doctors from various countries are attending to the injured in the quake-stricken regions, with the cooperation of Iranian physicians. He said: Most of the aid sent to the victims of the earthquake have come from European, neighboring, and Islamic countries; the Red Crescent and Red Cross societies of various countries; and the Medecins sans Frontiers.

JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI on U.S. Aid

LD2406113190 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday urged the public to do all they can to help victims of the Thursday devastating earthquake in the northern and northwestern provinces of Gilan and Zanjan.

In an editorial titled: "The Great Trial", the daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" said that dimensions of the disaster are so huge that other governments and nations are mobilised to help the quake-stricken and the homeless.

The article deplored that even some governments "whose hands are stained with the blood of the Iranian people, directly or indirectly, have expressed their condolences and offered relief supplies."

Obviously, the daily noted, by taking this step these governments aim at restoring their lost reputation before the freedom-seeking people in the world.

"Therefore", the paper argued, "it is not prudent to help them in their attempt to flaunt."

Meanwhile, in a separate commentary on the same subject, written by Seyyed Hassan Mir-Damadi, the daily noted "suspicious hands are being stretched towards our nation to help".

These hands, the article added, aim exploit the status quo and by making humanitarian gestures clean up their past acts of treason.

"The criminal U.S. Government is on top of all. In a deceitful message it has asked Iran to list its requirements to be dispatched immediately," wrote the commentary.

Terming the U.S. call on "opportunistic measure", the article said that America is mistaken if thinks that the Iranian nation has forgotten past crimes of the U.S."

It further added that the criminal role of America Iran's past once again became evident in the recent earthquake which claimed tens of thousnds of people.

If America, instead of plundering Iran's oil and other resources during its quarter of century forced domination over Iran had left small portions of the national wealth to the Iranians, the money would have been spent on urban development projects and advanced construction systems, the article stressed.

Moreover, even after its expulsion from Iran, the U.S. Government by imposing economic sanctions on Iran and launching several other plots, halted renovation of the country.

"Our people, even under the rubbles, chant 'Death to America' and demand the Almighty God to curtail the U.S. hands ... even those hands stretched to help," noted the article.

The article concluded by saying that if America had real humanitarian objectives and intended to help Iranian nation, it should do only one thing. "Stop hatching plots".

Foreign Aid Detailed

LD2206180290 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 22 (IRNA)—The French organisation of "World Doctors" said Thursday [21 June] that it would be willing to offer medical assistance as well as medicines to quake-stricken victims in Iran. It said a group of its member doctors and surgeons are ready to depart for Tehran immediately. Other French organisations, too, have offered help to Iran in the interest of wounded people and the survivors of the June 20 earthquake.

In Damascus the Syrian Government said Friday that it was going to send a plane load of food and medicines for the quake victims. Syria's help will be in the form of 11 tons of medicines, foods and clothing, as well as the dispatching of a medical team.

Turkey too, is to airlift various items in aid to quake victims shortly, said the Turkish health minister to reporters in the wake of his meeting with the Iran's ambassador to Ankara Friday.

The Red Crescent Society of Turkey announced Friday that it plans to send one billion Turkish lira worth of foodstuff and medicine to Iran. The first portion which includes 10,000 blankets, 1,000 tents, medicines and 200 bags of fresh-frozen plasma is to be airlifted Friday night.

President of Bangladesh Hussain Mohammad Ershad has also offered to dispatch a medical team with necessary supplies in aid of the earthquake victims in the Islamic Republic. The offer has been accepted with appreciation and the medical team with supplies are to arrive soon.

Japan, too, is to dispatch a medical team of 12 in addition to material aids such as tents, and medical appliances worth yens 13.6 million. Japan's Red Cross Chapter said Friday that it will donate the equivalent of yens 10 million in aid to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Red Cross of Poland is sending medicines and other first aid materials in aid to Iran, in addition to relief workers with sniffer dogs.

In Baku Friday a group of doctors of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan visited the Iranian Consulate there and expressed their condolence to the Iranian Consulate and the people of Iran on the occasion of the catastrophic earthquake. They said that they would be willing to offer medical assistance to the wounded people in the quake-stricken areas in Iran. The foreign minister of the Republic Sadykhov Friday expressed the condolence of the government and people of Azerbaijan to the government and people of Iran on the occasion of the mishap.

In Washington the Iranian interest section at the Algiers Embassy is receiving medicines donated by the Iranian community in America for the quake victims and the New York branch of Iran's Bank Melli is receiving cash aids of the Iranians.

The Iranian communities in various states of the United States are coordinating their aids to quake-victims.

Relief Operations Described

LD2206103890 Tehran IRNA in English 0849 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA—Iran Air managing director Hassan Shafti announced that extraordinary Tehran-Rasht flights will continue during the relief operations.

A relief headquarters was also set up in Nowshahr, Mazandaran Province, to render necessary help to those injured during the earthquake.

A strong earthquake rocked northern and western parts of Iran including the capital in the midnight Thursday [21 June]. It measured 7.3 degrees on the Richter scale.

Vice-president for executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh Thursday called on people to render more help to the damaged areas. He also thanked the local people who rushed to help their countrymen.

Also vice-president and head of the Physical training Organization Hassan Ghafuri-Fard called on all directors general of his organization throughout the country to provide the Red Crescent society with the Gymnasiums and other facilities for relief operations.

Meanwhile, ministers of labour and social affairs and of industries in a joint communique called on directors of industrial, service and production units in Tehran province and the neighbouring provinces of quake-stricken areas to make necessary coordination for volunteer night shift workers to be dispatched to the affected areas.

In a talk with IRNA in Rasht, Gilan Province on Thursday, commerce minister Abdol-Hoseyn Vahaji

said several tons of foodstuff and other basic goods including sugar, flour, tea and cheese, 7,000 blankets, 11,000 cartons of bread, 2,000 lanterns, and 44 water reservoirs have been dispatched to Gilan Province.

An Air Force commander said until Friday morning, over 6,000 criticallty wounded victims together with 3,000 tons of goods had been transported in 50 sorties by the force's pilots since the earthquake early Thursday.

General Naderian told IRNA that five members of the "Physicians Without Frontiers" from France are now stationed in the Air Force Hospital in Tehran to treat the wounded. Another group of French physicians is also due to arrive here this afternoon to help the victims in the quake-hit regions and at hospitals.

The commander also said specially trained police dogs were also being used in Gilan Province to recover bodies from under the debris which he said had yielded good results.

The managing director of the blood transfusion organisation Dr. Ahad Milaninia announced today that the blood needed for the quake victims was being donated by the people and that "there is no need for foreign assistance" in this regard. He said Iran had only asked for empty blood bags from international organisations and foreign governments.

Dr. Milaninia said Iran had ordered 96,000 blood bags from Japan and 8,000 from Switzerland. He said part of the order had been received and more was on their way.

He also lauded the people's enthusiasm in donating blood to the quake victims and requested only negative blood group people to refer to the blood transfusion headquarters for donation for the time being. Dr. Milaninia said the people had donated 16,000 bags of blood until 11:00 hours local time (07:30 GMT) Friday since early Thursday's [21 June] quake.

He said 1,000 bags of blood had been sent to the quake-hit provinces on Thursday and 1,200 bags had been devoted to the wounded people transferred to Tehran for further treatment. He said each province has a reserve of 500 to 700 bags of blood to be used in emergency cases.

Dr. Milaninia said the Tehran people's blood donation Thursday was 2,000 bags which he described as unprecedented.

Meanwhile, some 180 French physicians and specialists with 24 tons of medical equipment will arrive in Tehran at 15:00 hours local time to render help to those injured. A Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) official said a six-member group composed of relief workers from international emergency organization will also arrive in Tehran on board of an Iran Air flight. Mahmud Haj-Qasemali, technical deputy of CAO and head of coordination headquarters also said a 36 member group from the World Physicians Organization with a four-ton medical equipment and medical consignment will arrive in Tehran from Paris aboard an Iran Air flight.

Since the strong the quake hit vast areas in central and northwestern Iran, at least 100 after-shocks have been recorded by Tehran's geophysics center by Friday [22 June] noon, said Farhad Shad, an official of the center.

The strongest after-shocks measured 6.5 on the Richter scale which occurred 12:32 pm Thursday (09:02 GMT), 200 kms northwest of the capital, he added. The other after-shocks were below 6 degrees which jolted Gilan and Zanjan Provinces, he added.

Zanjan is one of the hardest hit areas and the earthquake has covered an area of 130 sqm kms of the province. Governor general of the province Jafar Musavi told IRNA that the quake has struck 120 villages. The most devestation has been reported in Rudbar, central part of Qazvin, Tarom-e Olya.

According to the governor general 40-60 percent of the villages in the area have been totally demolished. These villages are mainly located in mountainous areas which hampers the relief operations. He added that relief teams are helping the victims and burying the dead.

Damage in Zanjan Reported

LD2206114390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Our correspondent reports from Zanjan on the latest figures received on the dead and injured from the earthquake in Zanjan Province and the relief work to assist our compatriot victims of this earthquake:

[Unidentified correspondent] Following the strong earthquake in Zanjan Province which caused many deaths and material losses, the work of finding the bodies of the dead under the rubble and tranfering the injured to medical centers by people and the relevant authorities is continuing. According to the latest reports, so far in this painful event in the Tarom-e Oliya region of Zanjan, 2,500 people have been killed; 3,500 people have been injured. In Rudbar- e Shahrestan, Qazvin, 880 people have died, 4,500 people have been injured. In Bavazan, Takestan, 326 people have died, 67 injured. In Abhaz township three people have been killed and 130 injured, thus bringing the total of those killed to 3,709 and total of injured to 8,198.

Also, as a result of this earthquake, 112 villages have been 40 to 100 percent destroyed and over 15,000 houses have been damaged. [passage omitted] So far, over 30 helicopters carrying basic needs, including 11,000 blankets, 1,200 tents, 1 tonne of rice, 3 tonnes of sugar, 2 tonnes of dates, and 22 tonnes of bread have been flown to the region.

Another report states that this morning, First Vice President Habibi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Rasuli, representative of the vali-ye amr [guardian of the cause] of Muslims, together with the ministers of housing and urban development, defense, metals and mining, and labor, and supervisors of Plan and Budget Organization as well as the Nuclear Energy

Organization, arrived in Zanjan and met with local officials and then left by helicopter for the earthquake-stricken areas. [passage omitted]

Damage in Gilan Province

LD2206113190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] At a time when the number of those killed and injured as a result of the catastrophic earthquake in the north and northwest of the country has reached 32,260 at noon today, tens of thousands of people using equipment from various executive organizations have been extensively mobilized to help our compatriot earthquake victims throughout the country. The nonstop dispatch of relief convoys from all over the country, still continues. We begin this hour's news in detail with a report from our correspondent in Rasht on the casualty figures of the earthquake in Gilan Province:

[Unidentified correspondent] Almost two days after the catastrophic earthquake in Gilan, extensive efforts have been made to help the victims of this heart-rending tragedy. Relief workers from various parts are arriving in Gilan Province and together with that province's relief groups, they are being dispatched to the destroyed areas to help the victims.

The latest reports received from Rudbar tell of a great deal of destruction. The number of those killed is now more than 6,000 and those injured more than 10,000.

Rasht's relief work is continuing and the number of those killed as a result of the earthquake is now more than 70 and the number of injured is estimaed at 3,000. [passage omitted]

Reports received from Lahijan tell of massive destruction in Deylaman region and its rural areas. The number of those killed is now 60 and those injured are estimated at over 500.

In Fuman much destruction has been caused and 4 citizens and villagers have been killed and 300 injured. The injured are being treated. More than 1,000 houses have been totally destroyed.

On the other hand, Kudsar with 25 killed and 165 injured, Langrud with 3 killed and 88 injured, Astane-ye Ashrafi-ye with one killed and 100 injured, are among parts of Gilan province that have also suffered during the dreadful earthquake. [passage omitted]

Needs Specified

LD2206123190 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran 22 Jun (IRNA) The director general of the international relations office of the Red Crescent Society Sadreddin Sadr today requested international organisations and foreign governments to provide Iran with the following needs for the quake victims:

-Various kinds of medicine, particularly antibiotics and vitamins,
-surgical threads,
-orthopedic surgical equipments
-gibson and wibril (well-band)
-various kinds of blood bags
-tents, sheets, blankets, etc.

The Iran Air special flights to Rasht, established since Thursday [21 June] noon, have transferred more than 3,000 relief workers, the quake victims and their family members. The 11 daily flights will continue to render service, said Iran Air spokesman, 'Ali Bashari on Friday.

Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'edi Kya and his deputies are supervising the operation to clear the roads blocked by the mountain slide, said spokesman of the Ministry 'Ali Asghar Mozafari Fard on Friday. The official said that the Ministry's technicians and 200 loaders, bulldozers, grader, mechanical shovels, trucks and trailers as well as vans equipped with wireless systems which have been mobilized from nine provinces, are working non-stop in the devastated Provinces of Gilan and Zanjan to provide access to the quake-stricken areas.

Mozafari Fard added that communications derricks of the ministry in the area have been damaged in the quake and now radio communication is established through two wireless units.

The Chalus-Qazvin-Rasht road blocked by the mountain slide is closed till further notice, he said adding that those travelling to the Caspian region are requested to use instead the Firuz Kuh and Haraz road. Mozafari Fard expressed hope that most of the blocked roads will be cleared within the next few hours.

According to the latest reports from Gilan Province the death toll in the province has reached 10,300 and the injured 20,000. Some 30 helicopters and three C-130 aircraft are airlifting the injured, retrieved from the rubbles, to medical centers in five provinces of the country including Tehran.

The [word indistinct] Zanjan Province, according to the latest figures 3,704 have been killed and 8,198 have been injured. The provincial capital of Zanjan and its districts alone sustained 2,500 dead and 3,500 injured.

In the provincial city of Qazvin and its districts 880 are killed and 4,500 injured. In the city of Takestan and Abhar and the districts 324 are killed and 198 injured.

Addressing the Friday prayers congregation in Tehran Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili appealed to Iranians to rush to help the survivors of Thursday morning's devastating earthquake.

Ayatollah Ardebili said the massive casualties and damages in Gilan and Zanjan provinces were because the houses were built improperly and were not quake-resistant. He told the congregation that the former

regime neglected such a crucial issue. He stressed that the deprived areas should receive greater attention.

A high-ranking delegation made up of leader's representative Hojjat ol-Eslam Rasuli Muhailati, First Vice President Hasan Habibi, and several top officials arrived in Zanjan Friday morning to inspect the devastation and symphathize with the inhabitants.

Meanwhile the society of Iranian Jews has shifted all medical staff and equipment of the "Sheber" hospital in Tehran to Zanjan and Gilan Provinces, it was announced Friday.

President Arrives in Area

LD2206140590 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] Tehran 22 Jun (IRNA)—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Rudbar, Gilan Province, Friday and was immediately led along a tour of quake-stricken areas in Rudbar and Manjil. He is accompanied in his visit to the region by Hojjat ol-Eslam Ghayuri, representative of the leader at the Red Crescent Society, Secretary General of the Society Vahid Dastjerdi, Minister of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh, of Industries Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, Air Force Commander General Sattari and by Vice President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh.

The president now continues his tour of the quake-stricken areas in Gilan Province.

Interior Minister To Head Efforts

LD2406183990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The cabinet met this afternoon. The meeting reviewed the reports of the executive vice-president and the ministers of interior, road and transport, and health, treatment and medical training, who had returned from the quake-stricken regions, and the latest conditions in these regions. While paying renewed tribute to the pure souls of those who died in the earthquake—God's mercy be upon them—expressing appreciation for the patience and steadfastness of the survivors and injured, thanking the courage and selflessness of the great nation of Iran in helping the victims, expressing happiness that this assistance will continue, and the appreciating people's long-term plans to reconstruct the quake-stricken regions, the cabinet praised the efforts of all ministries and state organizations and emphasized the need for their round-the-clock activities for reconstruction.

Next, on the basis of principle 127 of the Constitution, and at the proposal of the president, the ministers appointed Mr. Nuri, the interior minister, as the special representative of the government, with full authority to attend to the affairs of the quake-stricken regions and the problems arising there, including the organization and management of relief work and the administration of the affairs of the damaged areas. All executive bodies and the headquarters formed in the zone should follow the instructions of the government's special representative.

In line with principle 127 of the Constitution, the decisions of the government's special representative will carry the same weight as the decisions of the president and the cabinet ministers. [passage omitted]

Representatives in Gilan, Zanjan

NC2506081290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Excerpt] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, has issued separate decrees appointing Hojjaj ol-Eslam Qayuri and Mojtahed-Shabestari as the leadership's representatives in the relief operations, to consolidate cooperation among all organs, and to correctly direct relief in a timely manner to the areas and people affected by the quake in Gilan and Zanjan Provinces. [passage omitted]

Deaths, Injuries at 72,586

LD2406111190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] The headquarters for earthquake victims, located at the presidential office, announced the number of deaths and injuries in the tragic earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan by noon today as 72,586.

Of that figure, the number of people killed in Gilan Province is 3,400 and the number of people injured is 19,913. In Zanjan 3,493 people were killed and 15,780 people were injured.

Due to the extent of the damage, more than 100 hours after the earthquake in Gilan and Zanjan provinces workers still continue to rescue and bring relief to the victims.

Our colleague reports from Rasht that, thanks to the relentless efforts of relief and medical teams, so far 15,000 of the injured have been treated in Gilan, 6,500 have been hospitalized in Tehran and other parts of the country, and 1,500 have been hospitalized in Gilan. [passage omitted]

48,000 Killed, 100,000 Wounded

LD2406201890 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Excerpt] On the basis of the latest figures, 48,000 people have been killed, 100,000 wounded, and more than 200,000 have become homeless in the earthquake which hit the north and northwestern part of the country. [passage omitted]

Rasht Hit by Aftershocks

LD2506083490 Tehran IRNA in English 0753 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Province, June 25, IRNA—Numerous strong after-shocks were felt in this northern

province throughout last night forcing the panic-stricken residents to spend the night outdoors.

Since last Thursday [21 June] when a devastating quake measuring 7.3 on the open-ended Richter scale turned a vast area in northern and northwestern Iran into rubbles, the strongest after-shock, 5.7 degrees on the Richter scale was recorded Thursday afternoon which his this provincial capital.

Non-stop rescue operations still continue in all parts of the province which has been severely struck by a catastrophic earthquake last Thursday.

In Rasht, where the quake took a toll of 80 dead and many injured, many government buildings and residential quarters are ruined, the city's main water reservoir is completely demolished and efforts continue to remove the remaining rubbles.

Relief teams have established mobile hospitals in the city's airport receiving the injured from throughout the province. The seriously injured ones are immediately airlifted to more advanced hospitals in other provinces.

Farsan Hit by Earthquake

LD2506122190 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 25 Jun 90

[Text] Shahr-e Kurd, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province, June 25, IRNA—An earthquake which measured 4.5 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale jolted the town of Farsan in this southwestern province at 23:04 hours local time (19:34 hours GMT) for the second time Sunday.

The geophysics center of Tehran University Monday said that the epicenter of the quake was the area 450 kms south of Tehran.

Meanwhile, two minor tremors rocked Sheikh Shaban village outside this provincial capital city early Monday morning.

None of the tremors caused any damage or casualty.

Earlier on Sunday a quake measuring 4.9 degrees on the Richter scale shook an area in Farsan, but caused no loss of life or property.

Musavi-Ardebili Delivers Friday Sermons 22 Jun

LD2206171490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1132 GMT 22 Jun 90

[First and second Friday prayer sermons by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili at Tehran University on 22 June—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted]

We have achieved two feats, praise be to God. One was fighting against domestic despotism. [passage omitted] The second was fighting against colonialism, the foreign enemy. This held us up for 10 years, imposed war on us, caused so much destruction, and made so many of us martyrs. [passage omitted]

[Second sermon begins] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] My second sermon concerns this week's events. It is certain th this coming week will be one in which we will be facing many probems; it is a week of our [word indistinct]; it is a week we should always recall as the week of catastrophe. The first event is that of the heart-rending martyrdom of His Holiness Javad [fifth imam, who is believed to have been poisoned by his wife], may God's blessings be upon him. [passage omitted] I express my condolences to the eminent leader, and the noble Iranian nation—whether men or women—and all Shiite Muslims in the world.

The second event is that of the earthquake, which encompasses very wide dimensions. It is extremely moving, heart-rending, worrying, and its ensuing problems are growing in dimension by the hour—high roads, mountains, houses, fertile lands, and all the rest which the brothers and sisters have already heard from the mass media. [sentence as heard] It is indeed an unbearable event, the problems in that area. Those individuals who have already visited the area have been relating all that they have witnessed. There is mounting concern since there are no telephones or transport. There are those whose father, sister, or child is in that area. Well, that was a divine will, which is related to other issues which we should resolve. Some time ago, there occured an earthquake in San Francisco, which was just over one degree stronger, and according to the census carried out afterward, eight persons were killed. According to our census, however, we have had—I do not know—20,000 or more victims. Whether they have taken a correct census as yet, I do not know. Why? Because the houses are made of mud and clay. They are rural homes. These homes were built over 50 or 60 years ago with mud and clay, each housing 10-, 20-, or maybe 25-person families. A strong wind would disintegrate those homes. Had those homes been made stronger, or if such a catastrophe had been predicted, would we have had so many killed? This is your task. You should have been constructing since Taqut [derogatory term referring to worshippers of idols, used in reference to the Pahlavi regime], but failed to do so. [passage omitted] These rural homes should be built in such a way that they are not disintegrated by a strong wind, let alone an eaarthquake, the aftermath of which leaves the entire nation in a state of mourning. It is at this point where we should feel our Islamic obligation. [passage omitted]

Amid all the tragedies there was gladdening news which we should mention. That was the victory of the Islamic party [Islamic Salvation Front] in Algeria.

Like many or all of you, I was extremely gladdened to hear that the Islamic party, that is, those who fought against France for 10 years in the name of Islam, those who gave about 1 million martyrs for Islam, had won the so-called municipality elections. [passage omitted]

Their first victory in the elections made such an impact that it deafened the ears of the enemies of Islam, suddenly creating an uproar, that the Islamic party defeated the ruling party in Algeria, that tomorrow it will be the Islamic Consultative Assembly elections, then it will be other things. This means the Muslims have come into power in Algeria. Then what about Tunisia, Morocco, and other neighboring countries? This has affected Egyptian Muslims. They have been strengthened by this. They can call it fundamentalist, regressionist, or whatever.

May God in all His greateness, glory, and divinity bless all Muslims who sacrifice their lives for the sake of establishing the rule of Islam, God willing. May God make this primary victory of the Islamic Party in Algeria a beginning for further Islamic victories in Arab countries in the West and save Islam from colonialism and imperialism, God willing.

I declare here and now that what occurred in Algeria makes one hopeful and optimistic about the future. We pray to God for further victories for our Muslim Algerian brothers. [passage omitted]

Further on Sermons

LD2206123690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] On the second day of public mourning all over the country on the eve of the anniversary of the martyrdom of the ninth vanguard of the world's Shiites, the holy imam Mohammad Taqi—God's peace be upon him—our Muslim compatriots throughout the country heard the politico-ideological sermons of the Friday prayers.

Tehran's residents, too, were present today at Tehran University and the surrounding streets for the Friday prayers led by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili.

The interim Friday prayer leader of Tehran, in his second sermon, expressed codolences on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of the holy Imam Mohammad Taqi—God's peace be upon him—to the holy presence of proof and justness, the holy imam of the age; the leader of the Islamic Revolution; and the world's Muslims, especially our Muslim compatriots.

Commenting on the scale of the tragic earthquake in the country's northern and northwestern regions, he said: The extent of the casualties and losses resulting from this quake are massive, and our Islamic and human duties and religious obligations require that people, mosques, responsible organs, organizations, and institutions assist and help in every way possible our compatriot earthquake victims and, mobilizing all their forces and resources, to make extensive efforts to relieve the survivors of this painful event.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili then referred to the imminent anniversary of the martyrdoms of the 28 June martyrs praised the great service rendered by the victim martyr, Ayatollah Dr. Beheshti and his companions, to Islam and to the revolution. He said: Our revolution is still benefitting from the fruits of the thoughts and services of these great and valuable martyrs.

The interim Friday prayers leader of Tehran then noted the upcoming anniversary of the martyrs of bloody Friday in Mecca and explained that the anniversary of the martyrdom of the pilgrims to the house of God in Mecca, made all Muslims and lovers of Islam mourn. He praised these everlasting martyrs, and, continuing his second sermon, considered that the recent election victory of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] inspired hope for the world of Islam. He stated: The victory of the FIS in Algeria, where its people fought for years against French colonialism and sacrificed a million martyrs in the path of Islam, as a symbol of the victory of Islam and Muslims in north Africa. This has really disturbed the enemies of Islam and has made them fear the impact of that victory in establishing the path and progress of Africa's Muslims, especially in Morocco and Tunisia.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili asked the Almighty to grant victory to Muslims who are strugging to establish and implement the principles of the Koran and Islam.

Editorial on Outcome of Algerian Elections

NC2206131490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "FIS Victory in Algeria: the First Step Only"]

[Text] The victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria's multiparty local council elections last Tuesday [12 June] has come as a surprise to most political observers and politicians in that country.

This political triumph draws most of its significance and element of surprise from the fact that FIS, established last year, has turned the tables on the National Liberation Front (FLN), a party in power for the last thirty years with access to all government and media resources for its campaign.

But the FIS' victory also underscores a big defeat of sorts for all imported ideologies in the Islamic countries, as the FLN had in fact been only an imitation of certain East European socialist parties.

The FLN, however, did achieve some relative victories in treating certain social problems and ills in Algeria. But its dogmatism, deriving from a monopoly of power and a centralism-oriented administration, ultimately has faced the society with such a rampant official corruption that has rendered the government rather obsolete in recent years.

An enormous bureaucracy, hand in hand with the very wide spread of official corruption, has virtually curbed the economic growth of the country. This has happened at a time when the 20-million nation has enjoyed a rather

high oil revenue. The country is among the most indebted African nations at present.

The Islamic Salvation Front however must be cognizant of the fact that inspite of its landslide victory, it has a long march ahead before it can finally win the government.

Foreign powers, together with the defeated National Liberation Front will certainly leave no stone unturned to face the fledgling political forces with variety of obstacles. For a fact, for the FIS to be at the helm of power, with its emphasis on Islamic ideology in North Africa, can be disturbing for some world powers like France for instance. Considerations along this line are based on the existence of vulnerable West-oriented governments such as those in Tunisia and Morocco.

As such, it is rather hard to accept that the Algerian authorities will agree to the demand by FIS' head Abbas Madani to dissolve the Parliament and hold Parliamentary elections in the country.

FIS is only at the beginning of a long struggle to establish the rule of Islam in the country. It needs a very well thought-out plan to keep repeating its local council victory.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Urges Unity in Afghan Party

LD2106115190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jun 90

[Text] Mr. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received members of the central council of Afghanistan's Islamic Unity Party [IUP]. The president expressed satisfaction with the formation of the IUP, which is an indication of greater unity among muslims and the struggling groups of Afghanistan. He said: The formation of a singular party, and the consolidation of greater unity, which takes place in the wake of victory [as heard] among the struggling Afghan mujahidin forces based in Iran, shows the alertness of Muslim Afghan mujahidin groups. Of course differences in taste will always exist, however, the general interests must come first. Today, the movement of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan needs alertness and good choice, more than at any other time.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then pointed out that right now the stage of confrontation against the occupiers has come to an end; and in the new stage the reactionaries of the Arab world and the Western countries no longer feel the need to assist the Mujahidin groups. Instead they will support anyone who guarantees their interests to a greater extent. He added: Unfortunately, in this stage, certain individuals have not shown the expected honesty. They have become inflicted with monopolism. So far it has been the regime ruling Afghanistan that has benefitted from this lack of unity.

He then addressed the members of the central council of IUP, stating: With such a unity you have paid your debt. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in turn, will assist you as far as it is able to. It is not seeking any concessions, except to witness the victory of righteousness, and the implementation of Islamic tenets in Afghanistan. The Islamic revolution considers support for the Muslim people of Afghanistan as a duty, and with the blessing of greater unity among you, the existing resources will be better utilized.

According to the same report, at the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Ebrahimi—representative of the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] in the IUP—talked about the formation of the party on the basis of the guidelines of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution. Moreover, Mr. Khaliqi, one of the members of the IUP's central council abroad, talked about the various stages on the way to the party's formation. Also, Mr. Baqeri, one of the members of the IUP's central council inside the country, talked about the method of the party's formation inside Afghanistan.

Pakistan Urged To Take Action in Leader's Death

NC2006123090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] An international seminar on thoughts and activities of slain Pakistani religious leader 'Allamah 'Arif Hussain Hussaini opens at Tehran University today.

Now with the passage of almost two years since the assassination of the Pakistani religious leader Martyr Hussain Hussaini, the Islamabad government has not yet taken serious and effective measures in nabbing his killers. The prominent Shiite religious leader who was assassinated in August 1980 [as published] by foreign agents was among the nation's most prominent religious personalities. He left an indelible impact on the Islamic movement in Pakistan. His seat however has been luckily taken by renowned religious leader Syed Sajid Naqvi.

A Shiite by religion Martyr Hussaini was engaged in tireless efforts in uniting Moslems. This gives him a special place in the Islamic struggle in his country.

It is regrettable that the government of Pakistan has apparently failed to take necessary steps to unravel the mystery of Hussaini's murder and punish the criminals involved. The fact that the Pakistani Shiites have supplied their government with solid evidence about those behind the Hussaini murder case adds to Islamabad's responsibility. In fact for quite ambiguous reasons the Pakistan Government, it may be said, has refrained from revealing the truth about this murder case. Further dilly-dallying on the part of Islamabad will only complicate the issue. This may even lead to a schism at national level in the country.

Now given the Kashmiri problem the Pakistani Government cannot afford any other crisis as it needs peace and order more than at any other time in the past.

Islam has very deep roots in Pakistan. In fact the reason for the very creation of the nation and its independence from India lies in the fact that Pakistanis wanted to have a state of their own based on Islamic teachings. Islam is then

intermingled with all aspects of Pakistani life. The rather cool, almost apathetic approach of the Pakistani Government to Hussaini's murder case is then surprising.

Recent years however have proven Pakistan to be very vulnerable to ethnic and religious strife. For the source of these conflicts one will have to also take into account the not-too-subtle-and-too-holy connecti[illegible]ome Pakistani ethnic and religious groups have with foreign governments.

The "Saudi connection", sets one good example of such obnoxious relationships. The Saudi court is seriously involved in Wahhabi propaganda in Pakistan and sends huge sums of money to some domestic ethnic leaders there.

The goal is of course nothing but to secure some political gains for the Saudi rulers at the cost of internal strife and bloodshed among Pakistani Moslems. One of the main features of this Saudi campaign is of course its anti-Shiite activities. This dirty plot against Shiites in particular may climax in the oncoming holy month of Muharram. The Pakistani government should take all necessary precautions.

Editorial Says British Delegation 'Not Welcome'

NC2206122490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 14 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "British Delegation Not Welcome"]

[Text] The British news agency, REUTER, quoting the London based weekly Sunday Times reported that four members of the British parliament are planning to pay a visit to Iran to try to improve Anglo-Iranian ties.

The delegation consists of Liberal Social-Democrat Lord Tordoff, Labor Party M.P. Thomas Clarke, Conservative Party M.P.s Robert Hicks and Cyril Townsend who had come to Iran in 1988 on a visit sponsored by the Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie.

Following the issuance of Imam Khomeyni's fatwa on Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel "The Satanic Verses", Tehran-London relations were severed in March of 1989. A glimpse of the history of Anglo-Iranian ties—since the Qajar dynasty (1750-1925) until the end of the Pahlavi regime and the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979—indicates England's animosity towards Islam in this country and the Muslim Iranian nation. To mention a few cases: occupation of southern regions of Iran, exploitation of Iran's natural resources, especially petroleum, the oil boycott in the Mossadegh era and London's role in the 1953 coup and recently the UK's hand in the conspiracy for publishing the sacrilegious novel "The Satanic Verses".

This last episode not only showed London's enmity towards the Islamic Revolution and eventually caused the Islamic Republic of Iran to cut its diplomatic relations with the conspirator country, but also hurt the sentiments of over one billion Muslims throughout the world. The attitude of the U.K. towards Iran has not been different than London's approach to other Muslim and Third World countries.

Now more than a year since London orchestrated Rushdie's plot to insult Islam, both Prime Minister Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Hurd have said that they have high regard for Islam. But in order to show their esteem they have to act and condemnation of Rushdie for what he did could be considered as a gesture of good will towards solving what is now London's dilemma with both Muslims around the world and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hurd recently put great emphasis on ties with Iran and asked for direct talks with Tehran over the Rushdie affair and the British hostages in Lebanon. If England has ever been sincere in its desire for establishing relations with the Islamic Republic, then in 1988 she would never have supported a unscrupulous writer versus Iran, which according to Hurd himself, is a "very important country" in the Middle East.

The Iranian people and officials do not take the recent statements made by the British officials seriously. Of course what they have said could be tactical and since the U.K. has failed in its cultural plot against Islam, now it is trying, by improving ties with Iran, to save face in the world of Islam.

Surely the British parliamentary delegation is not welcome in Iran and no invitation card has been sent by any Iranian official to London. Iranians are quite aware that there is no difference between British lawmakers and government officials since they are hands of the same body which for centuries has suppressed, colonized and robbed the oppressed nations of the world. The journey of the British delegation to Iran will not mark a fundamental change in the UK's attitude and policy toward the Islamic Revolution and Muslims.

Editorial Stresses Need for Unity in Lebanon

NC2006113590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Unity: The Only Answer to Zionist Bullying"]

[Text] Lebanon's Hizballah Movement appealed to Tehran and Damascus last Thursday to continue with their mediatory efforts to end the bloody confrontations among the Shiites in that country.

What the Moslem forces in Lebanon and across the whole region should be always wary of is the fact that their infighting is only in the interests of the Zionist state. The continuation of these clashes among Moslem sects not only has a direct bearing on their own capability to fight Israel but it contributes to conditions in which pro-Israeli forces can grow or be groomed by foreign powers like the U.S.

Zionism is then the greatest problem for both Lebanon and the region. Zionism, manifested in the state terrorism of Israel, is what the Moslems should direct all their forces at. It is only after uprooting Zionism, this racist and hegemonic ideology, that the region and the Moslems can see peace.

The Moslem forces in Lebanon should pay close attention to existing realities, recent international developments and Zionist plots. The sensitivity of the situation is such that nothing and no internal issue should be ever given precedence over a solid unity against the common enemy.

Those who still have not grasped the gravity of the problem and the depth of Zionist anti-Moslem designs and the sensitivity of the situation should wake up from their stupor. Palestinian freedom is at stake. With all the unqualified politico-financial support given the Zionists by war-mongering and capitalist barons of the world, nothing short of a united Moslem front can advance Islamic objectives. The infighting among Moslems and clashes between Shi'ite groups in particular are most disturbing and regrettable.

Sincerity on the part of Moslem forces in Lebanon makes it absolutely binding on them to welcome mediatory efforts by Tehran and Damascus to settle their problems as soon as possible.

In fact Israel is but a poisonous mushroom that grows only in conditions rendered suitable for its growth by infighting and schism among Moslems.

Zionism must go as other anti-human ideologies such as apartheid had to go. International pressure can certainly play a big role in undermining Zionism. But global support can be secured only when Moslems demonstrate solid unity and resoluteness.

Paper Lauds Arrest of 'Fifth Column' Elements

NC2206161890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jun 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Fifth Column"]

[Text] The arrest of elements of the illegal group named "The Association for the Defense of the Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation," which the Islamic Revolution prosecutor announced on Thursday, was something that the revolutionary forces had long been waiting for. This step by the revolution prosecutor is most laudable and appropriate, but the fact that it came so late gives rise to certain points which we will mention below:

1. The revolution prosecutor and any other legal authority entrusted with the task of investigating the crimes of grouplets and foreign-affiliated elements should not hesitate, even for a moment, and should consider it legitimate to take a firm approach to them. Those who constantly played the part of a fifth column in the war in favor of the enemy do not deserve any clemency or leniency.

The Islamic Revolution has many wounds on its body due to the concessions made to its enemies. Past experiences have proved that foreign-affiliated elements will have no mercy on their own country. Therefore, mercy to any such individuals is incompatible with the momentous obligations of the protection of the country's interests and the attainment of the people's aspirations, in the lexicon of the revolution.

2. The file on the arrested persons and their cohorts is full of documents on their treachery to the nation, on their trampling of the ideals of the revolution underfoot, and on their attempts to bring back the rule of idolatry. The revelation of the file on these elements and the dissemination of their past confessions are measures which are extremely effective in exposing the treachery of these servile elements. The relevant officials should not ignore these measures.

3. The support of the propaganda loudspeakers of the United States and its satellites accorded to these elements clearly proves that the arrest of some of the fifth column elements has aroused the direct apprehension of world arrogance. The firmer the approach by the Islamic Revolution prosecutor and all authorities concerned, the more facts will surface.

In this matter, a decisive approach on the part of the officials will bring home to the mentors of these elements abroad the fact that the decisions of the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on the preservation of the principles and ideals of the revolution and are as steadfast as always, and that those who have any ideas to the contrary are laboring under a delusion.

Paper on Turkey's Secularism, Islamic Revival

NC2106202290 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 11 Jun 90 p 8

[Political commentary entitled: "Ankara in the Vortex of Denial"]

[Text] In the past, there was a wave of return to values based on religious beliefs which comprise a part of the culture of nations, but this wave lost its momentum following the strengthening of colonialism and was relegated to the abyss of oblivion by the proclaimers of colonialism. At present, however, this wave has again engulfed the Middle East and the Muslims and the rise of Islamic Iran is eloquent testimony of the fact that the Western cultural system does not have the ability to provide for the moral needs of humanity and is now poised before the onslaught of a system of moral and ethical values.

Contrary to expectations, the Islamic Revolution did not deem the economy as its main front and took the sentiments of nations into consideration in order to meet the moral needs. One cannot demarcate fixed boundaries in this regard or make these needs a scapegoat.

Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reason to exult in the fact that it never had the intention of interfering in the affairs of other countries and considers its eight-year-long holy defense a proof of this claim, when it found itself poised against a worldwide front, which had delegated the representation of this aggression to an antipopulist and mischief-mongering regime.

What leads the secular governments toward the precipice of decline is the loss of the acumen to make decisions, and the tendency to consider the desires of Muslims as confined in a monopolistic manner to the Islamic Republic of Iran, without viewing the all-encompassing Islamic revolution in a wider perspective.

If in Turkey, the youthful generation of today does not seem to find any signs of its identity in a cursory assessment of its performance in the past, and considers its religious beliefs as the path to its salvation and the solution to its problems, it would be very foolish if we carried the clamor of protest to another threshold.

If today's Turkey cannot see in itself the ability to tolerate the culture of nudity and the educated younger generation is leaning toward Islam, why is the Islamic Republic of Iran's Consulate blamed and considered answerable for it?

The Turkish nation should realize what price it has paid for the pride of membership in NATO and having a fully equipped army which has so far only managed to stage coups. Is the price of friendship bankruptcy? Is the price of salvation from bankruptcy membership in the EC? Is the price of membership in the EC or the right to be a member of the EC that the Turkish nation should have a culture of nudity and should distance itself from its Islamic aspirations?

Today, the Turkish Government is committing a blatant crime and is searching very far for the remedy instead looking at its origins. If the Turkish Government imagines that it will blame the Islamic Republic of Iran for its woes, it is committing an additional crime. The continuation of the trend of Islamic fervor in the Turkish nation is a proof of this fact.

*Leaders Express Views on Majles' 10th Anniversary

90AS0114A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
29 May 90 p 5

[Text] Legal section and Majles: Ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of formation of the Majles was held yesterday with the participation of heads of the three branches [of the government], representatives of the leadership, members of the Council of Guardians, and a number of government and military officials. During the ceremonies, in their speeches, heads of the three branches spoke about the position and importance of the Majles.

Statements of Speaker of Majles

After welcoming the guests, the speaker of the Majles, Mr. Karrubi, said: The regime of the Islamic Republic achieved victory as a result of three important and destined factors: 1. The fundamental and most important factor was pure Islam and the spiritual influence it had on the people which was the cause of solidarity and dynamic movement of the people. 2. Exceptional and prophet-like leadership of his holiness the imam who united the nation by his decisiveness and far-sightedness and was able to elevate [the people] to a degree of awareness and maturity to be able to confront the unjust regime of the shah, which was dependent on the great satan, and caused the Islamic Iran to become united in their movement and demonstrations for bringing down the unjust regime of the shah. 3. Massive, united and active presence of the people on the scene of the struggle.

He then referred to the formation of the Islamic government and the drafting of the constitution. In regard to the position of the Majles he said: The Islamic Majles has a special place and several articles of the Constitution are about the Majles. Also, the gracious imam had special considerations and concern for strengthening the Majles. Article 76 has given the Majles the right of inquiry and investigation into all matters. In addition to the right of inquiry and ivestigation, Article 84 made Majles deputies responsible before the people.

Mr. Karrubi then added: Even though deputies are responsible before the people, they also have the right to express their views and no one is allowed to object to a deputy or even bring action against a deputy for expressing views regarding national issues. The articles of the Constitution regarding the Majles are indicative of the fact that next to the exalted leadership and the velayat-e faqih [vice regency of the supreme jurisconsult], which is the pivotal axis of general policies of the regime and the regime draws its legitimacy from it, the Majles is the axis, center, and protector of the regime of the Islamic Republic. As it has been emphasized in Article 71, the Majles can draft whatever laws it sees suitable for the growth and development of society, as long as they are not against Islam and the Constitution.

The speaker of Majles then pointed out that if the society does not want to continue on its proud, inquiring and revolutionary path, then the powerful and diligent Majles must place itself in the position of overseeing the affairs of the society and the activities of the officials. He then stated: In order to avoid moving toward dictatorship and eventual move toward destruction and emptiness, we see that the right to investigate and research, accountability toward all, statement of views and principles regarding the vote of confidence, which are related to questioning have been devised. These serve the well-being of the administrative regime of the country and insure the adequate supervisory role for the Majles.

In continuation he added: The Islamic Majles and other institutions of the Islamic revolution will, with the grace of God, remain safe from dangers—be they a dictatorship or foreign influence—and as long as the philosophy and ideas of the Imam and the frame work which he has

depicted for the nation are maintained then, with the grace of God, surely we will not suffer such blows from within or without.

Mr. Karrubi then recited some excerpts from the imam's statements in connection with the Majles and emphasized that: The attention of the imam to the Majles and his perceptions are unlike any other institution. These statements show the depth of the imam's thoughts and sensitivity and fate-making role of the Majles for the continuation and strengthening of the Islamic revolution and freedom and independence of the regime.

Mr. Karrubi then pointed out that the imam, with his statements, played a serious role in all three periods of the Majles. He said: The imam sent messages for all three openings of the Majles. There were many delicate, precise, sensitive and meaningful points in these messages. There were several issues such as creation of justness, Islamic justice, rule of Islam, attention to the affairs of the downtrodden and the deprived. Also, passing bills and plans aimed at eradication of poverty, solving people's problems, maintaining the policy of neither East, nor West, were among the issues which were emphasized by the imam.

He also read some excerpts from the statements of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i regarding the importance of the Majles and presented a full summery of activities of the Majles during the past 10 years and said: The Majles has been the most diligent, revolutionary and sympathetic institution for Islam, the downtrodden and the deprived. This is true not only about the present Majles, but also about the first and second Majles. The Majles has held 1,421 open sessions, of which several were secret. Commissions, which conduct the primary activity of the Majles, held 17,963 sessions. The sum total of plans and bills presented during the three periods have amounted to 1,688. Of these 793 were passed and, after confirmation by the Council of Guardians, sent to the government for implementation. During its term, Majles has given 35 votes of confidence to the government, from the cabinet of Martyr Raja'i to Haerizadeh, and also voted for 190 cabinet ministers. In order to demonstrate the popular role of the Majles it must be noted that so far, in line with Article 90, 70,994 complaints have been received by this commission, which have been or are under investigation. Beside numerous meetings between deputies and their constituents in various cross sections, over one million people have had meetings with deputies. Also, the Majles has had more than 500,000 spectators. He then recounted the most important plans and bills during the three periods of the Majles as follows: Investigation of the American spies, the law of resolution of financial and legal disputes of the Islamic republic government and the American government, guidelines for the investigation of Bani-Sadr's incompetence and passing its plan by the Majles, the law of activity of parties and societies, creation of the Ministry of Information, the law of duties of the Ministry of Foreign affairs, the law of classified documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the law of marking 4 November as the National Day of Struggle Against World Arrogance, the law of cutting relations with the government of England in connection with the Satanic Verses book, the law for intensification of activities against terrorist acts by the American government and the law for support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine.

Mr. Karrubi also considered the Five-Year Plan, the law for temporary farming, and the law of banking activities without interest as important economic laws. He said the law of integration of the Mobilization into the [Revolution] Guards Corps, the law of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the law for the creation of the Ministry of Defense and Support of the armed forces were the most important military laws. As for cultural laws, he considered the following laws as the most important: Law for the creation of thenternational Islamic Court, law of facilitating the acceptance of combatants into universities, the Charter of the Literacy Movement, and the law for the protection of the works and memory of his holiness the imam. In conclusion, he commemorated the 41 martyrs of the Majles during the two periods of the Majles.

The President's Speech

In his speech, the president referred to the anniversary of the passing of the imam and said: The emptiness resulting from his absence weighs heavily on the hearts, especially at this time of the anniversary of the formation of the Majles when we invariably used to take advantage of his wisdom in connection with the Majles. Anyhow, although we do not have the imam among us any longer, I hope we can benefit from the heavenly wisdom of our great leader who is the fruit of the gracious spirit of the imam. He also said: We must transform the significant statements made by the imam into aphorisms so that they can be stated on various occasions.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then remarked that the imam's statements are the best [evidence of the importance of the Majles] and said: I spent the best years of my life serving in the Majles. I feel deeply that one of the best achievements of our Constitution was the creation of such an institution with such authority, power and responsibilities in the Islamic Republic. Of course, in those days we did not have the experience to launch such efforts. We must contribute this to the clean atmosphere of the revolution in those days which was due to the hidden blessings that inspired those who were drafting it.

He added: During the past 10 years we have received many blessings from the Majles and solved many problems that could not be solved by executive or law-enforcement forces. Through the Majles many propaganda conspiracies that were hatched against the regime were neutralized. Of course, we must thank the imam because those circumstances were created due to his great support for the Majles.

While pointing out the often repeated words of his holiness the imam regarding the importance of the

Majles, the president noted: His holiness the imam used to invest in the credibility of the Majles in the context of certain cross sections and always emphasized that the Majles must protect its credibility from within and cannot afford to always wait to be supported externally and by the leadership. The Majles must always protect its credibility from within. He used to emphasize, especially, on the Islamic nature of the Majles and say: "Be careful to make sure that this Majles is not in any way accused in the eye of the society.".

In continuation, he pointed to the importance of the Majles in the eyes of the imam and said: As a result of my various responsibilities after the victory of the revolution, I had the honor of being in his presence on many occasions, many times I asked him if there are any more that I can take on—especially when I had the responsibility of the war efforts. He always emphasized the importance of the role of Majles within the regime. It was only regarding the candidacy of the presidency, that for the first time he agreed that circumstances are much different now than before. He emphasized: The presence of the Council of Guardians as prescribed in the constitution drastically reduces the danger of illegality of the laws passed by the Majles. However, the significance of the credibility of the Majles is that it is inherently Islamic. This has always been a point of consideration and, certainly, in the future the respected deputies should consider this in order to avoid the possibility of some one thinking that what would the Majles do without the Council of Guardians?

Those who represent the Moslem people and Moslems who give their lives for the sake God are, for sure, behind those who are dependent on Islam and the Koran, which is a good guarantee.

In continuation, he said: Nowhere else in the world such free podium of a parliament is put at the disposal of the whole world without any censorship.

The president also pointed out: If it were not for the Majles—in view of the waves of propaganda and words—how could we prove our legitimacy. Now, if some one wants to impose censorship upon himself, then that is his business. However, if one wants to fulfill ones duties and state his piece, not only it is not forbidden, but also encouraged. This has been proven during the 10-year life of the Majles. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then noted that the healthiest debates take place here and said: It is not my intention to say that no one here has certain tendencies or does not speak his mind. However, those tendencies are a reality and realities are under the influence of individuals. This maneuvering of freedom is very precious for the Majles and, as we said, there is an open communication between people and the Majles. Deputies travel to their constituencies often and it was always a point of concern for us to keep enough of them here in order to have a quorum.

He emphasized: Our Majles does not function in the same deceiving ways as practiced by the rest of the world. However, we as well as our people and enemies know that ballots cast in our country are the freest kind and we must always try to maintain this freedom in our elections.

In another part of his speech, while emphasizing that the relations between the Council of Guardians and the Majles must be friendly, the president stated: The Council of Guardians must be considered a blessing for the Majles. If at times it repudiates our work we must not be saddened. [We must consider that] the people's mind will be at ease, since they are Moslem and do not accept anything except Islam. We can take advantage of the credibility of the Council of Guardians [to support] the credibility of the Majles.

He noted: I do not believe any parliament has as much work as we do. Of course, in general, their deputies do other work also. Their deputies may do more work but, not for the parliament, as is done here. If this group is adhered to, then, God willing, this Majles can always remain as the focal point for administration of the country and will maintain the trust of the people.

In continuation the president added: Keep the Majles in this free state. Also, of course, heed the advice of the imam regarding the quality of exchanges, adherence to Islamic behavior and regard for the honor of others—which certainly are good investments for the Majles.

Then, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the speaker of the Majles and said: Today we are witnessing that he is administering the Majles effectively. He has the trust of the deputies and his past record indicates that, from the outset of the revolution, he was among the friends who were part of the theological students who were battered for the revolution.

In conclusion he stated: We hope that this harmony and coordination among deputies could be maintained, despite certain differences of opinion. We always see the Majles, the government, the Council of Guardians, the judicial organizations and other institutions united in the service of the revolution and in the path of the imam under the leadership of our exalted leader.

Statements Of Chief Of Judicial Branch

In conclusion, Ayatollah Yazdi spoke and said: We are commemorating the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Majles at a time when the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran is no longer among us. However, as we all know that the basic line and the ideals of the imam is still with us. His capable son, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i who was elected by the Council of Experts, has accepted the responsibility of carrying the banner of the leadership. We are living in a relative calm, adhering to and taking advantage of the path that has been formed by the imam.

In another part of his speech, the chief of judicial branch pointed out that he sees himself as a member of the Majles and said: We know that in the constitution a

chapter has been dedicated to the legislative branch which is composed of matters regarding the rights of the Majles and its deputies.

While pointing out the independent legal character of the Majles and deputies, Ayatollah Yazdi said: A Majles deputy has the right to express his views about all national issues. However, voting or not voting for bills and plans, votes of confidence and inquiries are rights of the Majles and these are all among legal characters of the Majles.

He added: There is a series of rights that are delegated to individuals along with the title of deputy. In enjoying these privileges, no one has the right to object. However, if a deputy commits a crime he is subject to indictment. The chief of the judicial branch pointed out that parliamentary immunity, in the wide sense of the word, does not exist in the Constitution. He said: Just because someone is a deputy and, thus, has a friendly relation with the judicial branch does not mean that no other issues are going to come up. It is possible that other situations occur in connection with a deputy, since he is a representative and an individual.

In continuation, Ayatollah Yazdi said: In principal, in the Constitution there are some differences between the rights of the Majles and the rights of Majles deputies. If these differences are noted, many of these problems will be resolved or they will not occur.

Ayatollah Yazdi called the connection between the Majles commissions and appropriate ministries a natural phenomenon and said: Most Majles commissions have close connection with their respective executive organization and the closer this relation, the better issues will be resolved. The chief of the judicial branch added: Presently we have 23 bills and plans in the Majles, of which the most important is the bill of General Courts. We believe that if this bill is passed by the Majles many problems will be resolved and many hortcomings of the judicial branch will be compensated.

In his speech, Ayatollah Yazdi called the interchanging of forces from the executive to the legislative, and vice versa, a positive and notable aspect of the Majles and said: One of the positive points of this issue is that those who move to the executive branch from the legislative or [the other way around] are familiar with executive and legal problems. This issue is very important in resolving national questions.

This issue is especially helpful regarding persons who transfer from the legislative branch to the executive branch. They are less likely to break the law in the name of being revolutionary which, ultimately, causes many problems for them and others and say one must act in a revolutionary way. It is natural to be a revolutionary. However, one must be a law-abiding revolutionary. Some friends accuse me of too law-abiding, in return, I tell them that you at times claim to be too much of a revolutionary and break the law.

He added: I believe a revolutionary act must adhere to the law. It means that, if implementation of a revolutionary action is really required, then the legislative branch, with its full powers, should draft and pass the appropriate law and, thus, enable the executive organ to implement it. We cannot act outside of the law and claim that the issue was a revolutionary one. The chief of judicial branch emphasized: After 11 years, now we must move the country toward order, rule of law, adherence to and maintaining regulations.

Ayatollah Yazdi in regards to the special characteristics of the third Majles said: In my view, the technical and specialized level of this Majles is higher. More specialists and technical people are involved and discussions are mature. Regarding the discussion of important and specialized issues in various commissions of the Majles, the chief of the judicial branch said that the Majles is like a university and there are various opinions. While discussing the role of the Majles in the country and its position, Ayatollah Yazdi said: Now that the Majles is the strongest and the best Majles and the center of all powers, as long as this power does not strengthen its alliance with the power of God, it cannot last [as published]. God must be considered in all endeavors and only this will solve all the problems. God will lead us to solve our problems.

*Editorial Comments on Majles Anniversary

90AS0135A Tehran ABRAR in Persian 28 May 90 p 1

[Text]

The Necessity To Maintain the Distinguished Position of Majles

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Today, we hold dear the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the Majles at a time when the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June] is filled with sadness on the first anniversary of the setting of the sun of the Islamic Iran. The great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, God's peace be upon him, with his continuous support and assertion that the Majles is the essence of the nation and the fruit of the cries of "God is great", always emphasized on the magnificence and esteem of this valuable institution.

Now, at the outset of the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the Majles and the commemoration of its valued martyrs and by emphasizing its special position in the regime of the Islamic Republic, we must mention the expectations of the constituents from their deputies which is that the Majles must continue to uphold its excellent posture and live up to the interpretation of the Imam which is that the Majles heads all affairs.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic has provided adequate tools and responsibilities to ensure the authority of the Majles and the deputies. The legislative authority, supervision of national affairs, and the vote of

confidence to the government are among the most important of these responsibilities. It is the expectation of people that their representatives, within the framework of their duties and responsibilities, implement these three points with utmost care and perfection.

If a law is passed, the deputies are duty bound to observe its method of implementation and make sure that it is executed uniformly. People expect their representatives to keep an eye on national issues and social problems, investigate their solution, and present them [to the Majles] in the form of a draft. We do not mean to say that present and past deputies have not worked on fundamental and basic laws, but this is to remind them not to neglect their duty of observe the correct implementation of laws. The right of supervision of affairs and issues have been delegated to deputies with the expectation that they carefully monitor national affairs and put their seal of approval on executive methods. Also, to point out and inform people about incorrect ways. They must avoid falling short on fulfilling their duties and mission which results from getting involved in executive channels and taking on responsibilities outside of the duties prescribed for the representatives of the people.

The Majles has the advantage of having 10 years of experience and the people expect their representative to benefit from their experiences and, thus, recognize the people's problems and try to find solutions for them.

The formation of parliamentary groups composed of various factions must be in line with the interests of the people and not a tool for gaining more power in the parliament to utilize outside the Majles.

The period of reconstruction requires a Majles with deputies who are aware of social and current world issues and carefully follow events. The determining role of the Majles in solving national problems will be felt at a time when the deputies utilize their power, capability, and political foresight in passing fundamental laws, supervising their implementation, and directing all other affairs. The people expect their representatives to resolve their problems.

Sri Lanka

President Says Dialogue Opportunity Remains

BK2406113390 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jun 90

[Text] President R. Premadasa says the path to solve problems through consultation, compromise, and consensus is still open, but he is also prepared to meet the situation if anybody shuns discussions and resorts to arms. The president made these observations when he addressed a public rally following the opening yesterday of the 12th Gamudawa Village Reawakening anniversary celebrations at Pallakele in the Kandy District. He said that the government enters into negotiations with any party in good faith and it is committed to fulfilling promises. At the same time, the president said, they will not promise what could not be achieved. If anybody tries to cheat the government, it is not the government but the person himself who gets cheated. Mr. Premadasa expressed the hope that it will be possible before long to eliminate evil and reestablish justice.

During the 1983 disturbances, some sections tried to capitalize on the situation saying that the majority of Sinhalese Buddhists were harming the minorities. The president noted that today the entire world has fully understood the true situation in the country, which is a struggle between the forces of justice and injustice. It is now the accepted view that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was responsible for the renewed hostilities. The president added that the Sewana Sarana Foster Parents Scheme has received 3.7 million rupees in response to his appeal to make contributions in place of sending greeting cards on his birthday.

Fighting Continues in Northern, Eastern Areas

Press Release on Situation

BK2206134090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1255 GMT 22 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 22 June (LANKAPUVATH)—During last 24 hours ending 1200 today, the Sri Lankan security forces further consolidated their position in the north and eastern provinces, states a press release issued by the Department of Information.

The release further states that in the northern sector, Navy camps at Karainagar and Nainativu came under heavy mortar attack. In Mannar the LTTE terrorists blasted a small bridge between Parayanakulam and Madhu road. The Kondachchi Army detachment was attacked with small arms and mortars. This detachment was later withdrawn. The Army detachments at the old pier close to Talaimannar and the Kondachchi cashew farm have been re-established.

The Jaffna fort continued to remain under siege. Now that the KKS [Kankesanthurai] harbour is being cleared, it is expected that the harbour will be made operative very soon. Security forces have succeeded in clearing the area around the Palali base camp and air field. Civilians, who were driven out of these areas by the terrorists, have started returning to their homes. Troops have also completed the clearing of the roads from Wilachiya to Silavaturai.

In the Eastern Province, the security forces successfully attacked an LTTE terrorist base in Karaitivu situated south of Kalmunai. The LTTE suffered severe losses in this operation.

A number of women and youth cadres of the LTTE in camouflage uniforms fled as the troops advanced. In Nintavur, a few miles south of Karaitivu, the fleeing

terrorists attacked a Muslim village and looted their homes for food, jewellery and money.

The security forces moved into this area very quickly and provided security. Security forces shared their food with these villagers who had been starving for more than 24 hours.

This practice is being followed in other areas into which the security forces have moved. The mines, booby traps and explosive devices planted by the fleeing terrorists have caused grievous hurt and injury to troops as well as civilians.

Civilian casualties have been removed to hospitals. The Polonnaruwa-Batticaloa, the Batticaloa-Pottuvil and the Amparai- Kalmunai roads have been cleared for traffic.

The security forces, during their clearing operations in the eastern province, destroyed a large number of well-constructed bunkers. Some of them, military sources said could have taken three months to complete and that this was part of the "talking and fighting strategy" adopted by the LTTE.

Two large gas cans similar to those used by the terrorists in their chemical bomb attack on the Kiran camp have been recovered from an LTTE hideout near the Valachchenai paper factory.

Minister Briefs Diplomats

BK2306093890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0734 GMT 23 Jun 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 June (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne who yesterday met Colombo-based diplomats for the second time since the outbreak of fighting in the Northern and Eastern provinces said that friends are put to the test in moments of crisis and hoped that economic and moral support would be forthcoming from Sri Lanka's friends abroad.

The dean of the diplomatic corps thanked the authorities for the briefing and said they all sympathised with Sri Lanka. They expressed the hope that the situation would normalise as soon as possible.

The minister said the security forces had lost 112 dead and 178 wounded in the fighting while the police dead were 158, and 7 were wounded. There was no news of the abducted policemen, he said. Of the 124 missing from the regular police force, 60 p.c. [per cent] were Sinhalese and the rest Tamil and Muslim. All 340 missing reserve constables were Tamil and Muslim.

He said that until the abducted policemen were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross, he was not sure whether they were massacred.

Foreign Minister Harold Herath, Minister of State John Amaratunge, Defence Secretary Cyril Ranatunge, Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna and International Affairs Advisor Bradman Weerakoon were associated with Mr. Wijeratne at yesterday's meeting.

The minister said that stiff resistance had been overcome at Batticaloa and Amparai while the Trincomalee town was relatively safe although the surrounding villages were still under attack.

He said that the forces had conducted themselves in an exemplary manner and were well disciplined. They had been able to win the confidence of the civilian population. The minister invited local and foreign journalists to visit the Eastern Province and see the situation for themselves. The LTTE had burned co-ops [cooperatives], shops, houses etc., while retreating.

General Ranatunge who gave details of the LTTE's chemical warfare tactics said the forces have been targets of booby traps and landmines. Some soldiers had lost their legs while others had been hospitalised for amputations.

The diplomats were told that Jaffna Fort had been under heavy fire but the contingent there had held in without renlenishment or reinforcement. The forces had held their fire to safeguard civilians.

Defense Ministry on Situation

BK2206113090 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] A news release issued by the Ministry of Defense states that during the last 24 hours ending at 1200 noon yesterday, the Jaffna Fort came under continued mortar, rocket, machinegun, and small arms attack. A large number of soldiers and policemen are marooned inside the Jaffna Fort. It has not been possible to provide the basic necessities of food, water, and medicine to these men. The Palali airport base camp came under heavy attack, leaving six dead and several injured. The International Committee of the Red Cross has undertaken an observation tour of Jaffna.

In Mannar, several civilians stepped on booby traps and mines laid by the fleeing LTTE terrorists in Kondachchi near Silvatturai. It is reported that 10 civilians were seriously injured. Many civilians have now left Kondachchi due to fear of mines and booby traps.

The law and order situation in the Eastern Province has almost returned to normal. The Sri Lankan security forces personnel are now engaged in clearing-up operation and assisting in the maintenance of essential services. The fleeing LTTE terrorists from the eastern province have now moved into the jungles of Wadamune, Dimbulgala, and Toppigala. During their escape into the jungles, they had looted several boutiques and cooperative stores on the way and set fire to a part of the sugar plantation.

62 Muslims Killed

BK2206130290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, Tamil militants today killed 62 Muslims in the Eastern Province. Security sources said in Colombo that the LTTE militants armed with guns and knives stormed Nintavur village in eastern Amparai District and killed them. Reports say, the militants also attacked the Dutch fort in the heart of Jaffna town.

In other incidents, the militants blew up a bridge in Mannar District and attacked a naval base at Karainagar and a naval detachment at Nainativu, both in the Jaffna peninsula. The security forces are still not able to reach food supplies to several areas in the eastern province, claimed to have been liberated by the government forces.

Paper Reviews Situation in Eastern Province

BK2206124290 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 13 Jun 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Spilt Milk"]

[Text] A dark shadow looms over the Eastern Province of this island, with eleven soldiers killed in an LTTE ambush at Kalmunai and several police stations, in both the Batticaloa and Amparai districts overrun by the Tigers who appear to be making a push to capture the multi-ethnic province.

Justice Minister Shahul Hameed, who chairs the North-East Peace Committee, flew to Jaffna yesterday morning for talks with the LTTE leadership. The whole country will hope that these talks will yield some tangible result. It is not too late, even now, to stop another civil war breaking out.

The LTTE cannot expect Sri Lanka's police and security force to accept tamely what has been done and, as this is being written, there was every indication that the armed forces of the State had begun both to resist and to retaliate.

Minister Ranjan Wijeratne is on record saying that "certain measures" were being taken. He naturally declined to spell out what these were. But there have been movements of troops and special task force commandos to the troubled areas.

The LTTE, clearly, had taken undue advantage of the overwhelming desire of the vast majority of the people of this country to prevent another war. That is why the security forces and police were under orders not to be provoked into confrontation.

The provocation has been extreme in recent weeks. The Vavuniya incident, on Poson day, when one soldier lost his life was not just a single straw in the wind. There had been many other provocations before that.

It is useless trying to find out what triviality caused the match to be brought to the powder-keg. Reports available yesterday suggested that some incident in a refugee camp set off the train of events. But no sensible analyst will overlook the fact that the Tigers had a great many men available in the Eastern Province itself to surround and overrun a number of police stations in two sprawling districts, Batticaloa and Ampara.

Minister Hameed, undoubtedly, would have conveyed to the Tiger leadership in Jaffna that not only Colombo but the whole country wants peace. It would have been useful if Prabhakaran himself, not just his lieutenants, was present at yesterday's meeting. That would have been an index of the degree of LTTE concern about what has happened.

The talks between Colombo and the Tigers was based on mutual trust. What has been happening along the Eastern coast since Sunday has been a tragic breach of that trust. Fences can and, indeed, must be mended. But the lessons of this week will long remain in the minds of the security forces.

The LTTE have tried to dismiss some of the earlier incidents as the work of the rank and file that did not have the blessings of the leadership. In a situation like today's, that stance can also be taken by the other side.

The milk has already been spilt and it is useless crying over it. The task—now—is to ensure that there is no more spilling of blood.

The country hopes that there will be no full-fledged war and that the fighting that has already begun will be quickly ended. In the meantime, it is the duty of all citizens of Sri Lanka not to be provoked into any kind of communal or other violence as a result of the events in the east.

Subversives and other rabble-rousers may well see an opportunity to create another 1983. The country has learned the bitter lessons of that experience and it is incumbent on all to keep their heads and allow the responsible authorities to tackle the situation in the Eastern Province. There must be no spillover of violence to the rest of the country.